FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

13 MARCH 1985

Iran-Iraq War

Over 700 Iraqi soldiers have been killed or wounded since the start of Iran's 11 March offensive and Iraq's 12 March counter-offensive, according to reports from the Khatam ol-Anbiya headquarters cited by IRNA. However, an Iraqi military spokesman, in an announcement broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio, asserted that the Iranian offensive had completely failed. An Iraqi military communique broadcast by the radio maintained that "very large numbers" of iranian forces were killed. In a related development Tehran radio reported that Iraqi forces used chemical weapons against Iranian forces on 13 march.

Responding to 12 March Iraqi attacks on the cities of Bostan, Piranshah, Marivan, and Hamadan, an Iranian military communique reported by IRNA stated that Iran's heavy artillery will resume its attacks on "military and economic" installations in Basra. The communique reiterated Iran's support and compliance with the UN proposal to cease attacks at 2359 GMT on 11 March, but contended that Iraq failed to comply. Iraqi media has not reported the 12 March attacks on Iranian cities.

Lebanon

Phalangist Internal Crisis — Dismissed Phalangist official Samir Ja'ja' has proclaimed himself commander of an "uprising" within the Lebanese Forces and his supporters have wounded Forces commander Fu'ad Abu Nadir in an assassination attempt in al-Ashrafiyah, the clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio announced on 13 March. The reported assassination attempt came in spite of Abu Nadir's decision to restore the independent decisionmaking of the Lebanese Forces, a move which the radio viewed as an attempt to appease Ja'ja's supporters, who enjoy widespread support in the Lebanese Forces. The radio also said that clashes have begun between supporters and opponents of the rebels, who have seized the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon. The latter radio went off the air on the morning of 13 March after reporting favorably on the "uprising" and denying reports of clashes in East Beirut. It claimed that citizens viewed the action taken by Ja'ja' as "reassuring," and cited declarations of support for Ja'ja' from Phalangist and Christian circles. Meanwhile, Voice of Arab Lebanon linked President Amin al-Jumayyil's decision to cancel his visit to Moscow with the crisis in the Phalangist Party.

Israel and the South — Two IDF soldiers were killed and seven others were injured in further attacks on Israeli troops in the south, Jerusalem radio announced. Most of the casualties were caused by gunfire near the Al-Qasimiyah bridge but one soldier was injured by another car-bomb. The radio subsequently indicated that some Israeli Cabinet ministers are considering implementing the second and third phases of the withdrawal simultaneously, though "no changes on accelerating the withdrawal are to be expected at the moment." Senior IDF sources pointed out that the IDF would have no difficulty in combining the second and third stages of the withdrawal, the radio added.

Commenting on the U.S. veto of the UN Security Council's condemnation of Israel's "savage" actions in southern Lebanon, Beirut radio said this will encourage Israel to commit further "massacres."

Syria

President Hafiz al-Asad began his third presidential term with a speech to the People's Assembly, broadcast by Damascus radio, in which he warned of the dangers of the "frightening move toward capitulation and the liquidation of the Palestine question under the cover of the so-called peace process." Contending that a just peace "is not achieved by begging, but by sacrificing," Al-Asad rejected the way the Palestine question is being handled by "the lowly ones," adding that the alternative to this is "militant" action as exemplified by the Lebanese National Resistance, whom Syria will continue to support until Lebanon is "completely liberated" from Israeli occupation. The president also reaffirmed his commitment to Arab unity, saying that every Arab country should "grow larger in order to include the Arab homeland" and that the goal of Arab unity should be "above Arab differences."

On internal matters, Al-Asad urged officials and the public to adopt a greater "sense of responsibility" to combat "violations," and he added that the news media should not remain silent over "errors." As for Syria's economic potential, the president disclosed that light crude oil was recently discovered for the first time, and that studies indicate the presence of "encouraging" quantities of natural gas in Syria.

Egypt

In a statement to U.S. President Ronald Reagan carried by MENA following their 12 March meeting, President Husni Mubarak said the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement is a "major step" that should not be "discounted or discarded." Mubarak added that "we cannot afford another missed opportunity for peace."

Maghreb

A recent press conference given by Morocco's King Hassan II increased doubts and placed "obstacles" before a Maghreb "concerted action" to solve the Western Sahara conflict, according to an Algerian Foreign Ministry communique broadcast by Algiers radio.

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'Arafat Interview With AL-YAWM AL-SABI

LD121507 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Excerpts] Here is the text of the historic statement made by brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] to the *AL-YAWM AL-SABI* magazine:

Question: The Palestinian-Jordanian agreement has stirred up a storm which has not yet subsided. What were the reasons that made you conclude this agreement?

Answer: First, we must say that there is a resolution which was adopted by two PNC sessions — the 16th session held in Algiers and the 17th session held in Amman — and this resolution states the need for establishing distinct Jordanian-Palestinian relations and a confederation between Palestine and Jordan. Last year following the 16th session a Palestinian-Jordanian attempt was made to reach an agreement in implementation of the resolutions adopted at the Algiers session. That attempt was unsuccessful, because of a deadlock between us and the Jordanian brothers. But, as is known, we did not close the door because there was still a Palestinian and a Jordanian desire to reach a solution.

Prior to the Tripoli battles another contact took place between us and the Jordanian Government. A delegation sent by his majesty the king, consisting of Marwan al-Qasim and Hasan Ibrahim, came to Tunis. We in turn sent a delegation consisting of brothers Mahmud 'Abbas, Abu Mazin, and brother Khalid al-Hasan, Abu al-Sa'id. Then there were the events of Tripoli which delayed the issue. After that these relations were in limbo until His Majesty King Husayn took a courageous decision regarding the convening of the PNC in Amman. It is known that this brave stance was not easy in view of the challenges and the threats he received from more than one side.

During the PNC session King Husayn again submitted his ideas that he had submitted to us during the dialogue meetings. The PNC defined specific factors regarding King Husayn's initiative and then referred the issue to the new Executive Committee to follow it up. So it was natural that we should follow up the issue after the council with the Jordanian brothers — the issue that resulted in this agreement. At the beginning we sent a delegation under the leadership of brother Faruq al-Qaddumi, Abu Al-Lutf, head of the Political Department. Then we sent another delegation to follow up what had been started by brother Abu al-Lutf and submitted ideas.

The Jordanians submitted their own ideas. Then the Jordanian side sent us a plan of action representing the Jordanian views. The Palestinian leadership met in a joint session of the PLO Executive Committee and the Central Committee of the Fatah movement. It studied the issue and sent to Jordan a Palestinian plan representing the Palestinian views. The Palestinian leadership met in a joint session of the PLO Executive Committee and the Central Committee of the Fatah movement. It studied the issue and sent to Jordan a palestinian plan representing the Palestinian views. Matter were on the brink of deadlock just as in 1983. But the good peoples from both sides, the Jordanian and Palestinian sides, came to the aid of the situation. As a result an invitation from his majesty the king was extended to me personally to visit Amman where talks were held for more than 5 and 1/2 hours, after which we reached an agreement regarding the points of disagreement, and then this agreement was issued.

Question: The agreement has been attacked in principle, and it has been said that the aim of the agreement was to open the door of dialogue with America in accordance with the Reagan initiative. What is your reply to this attack?

Answer: No one has the right to attack the PNC resolutions. I would like to say to the pedants that these were the resolutions of two successive PNC sessions, the Algiers and the Amman sessions. Any person attacking the agreement is in fact attacking PNC resolutions. The resolutions are sacred and no person — whoever he may be, Palestinian or Arab — has the right to violate it. As for this being an opening for a dialogue with America, I would like to remind those who say this that the American facts are still the same even after the agreement — no to a Palestinian state; no to the PLO; no to an international conference. Some pedants forgot the Israeli military campaign against southern Lebanon and the city of Beirut aimed at the PLO. This was not an Israeli campaign, but an American campaign. But I regret to tell those pedants who issue false slogans that they forget that when we were fighting Israel and America during the longest Arab-Israeli confrontation, they themselves signed a cease-fire agreement with Israel. This took place only 4 days after the start of the war.

Question: Is there a coincidence in timing or link between the achievement of the Palestinian-Jordanian and the consultations that King Fahd held in Washington with U.S. President Ronald Reagan?

Answer: I cannot say this but, as is known, the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement was communicated to to His Majesty King Fahd. The king was informed of this prior to the Washington trip. He was informed of the Jordanian and Palestinian viewpoints. He was then informed of the text of the agreement.

Question: Was it agreed that the agreement should remain secret, and were you surprised when Jordan broadcast it?

Answer: In order to be fair, we did not say that the agreement was secret. But we agreed not to announce it now, but to postpone its announcement. We were surprised by its announcement by the new Jordanian information minister. I personally see no harm in its announcement. But what pained us was the fact that it was announced without any reference to the fact that there are some explanations which the Palestinian side requested for their introduction to the text of the agreement.

Question: It has been said that the agreement has an explanatory memorandum. Is there one? Does this answer the ambiguous points and questions which can be misinterpreted in the agreement?

Answer: As I have told you, we sent an explanatory memorandum — I sent it personally to His Majesty King Husayn — containing some of the Palestinian opinions about these ambiguous points.

Question: Can the contents of this explanatory memorandum be disclosed?

Answer: Two points — the point concerning the joint Arab delegation, and another explanatory point in which the phrase when the Israeli withdrawal takes place is added. As for the sentence which speaks about the spirit of the Fes summit, I proposed that it should be amended to read: In affirmation of of the resolutions of the Fes summit.

Question: The Executive Committee also drafted an explanatory memorandum. Did Jordan accept this?

Answer: The Executive Committee did not draft an explanatory memorandum, but it adopted the one that I sent to His Majesty King Husayn.

Question: it was announced in the press a few days ago that a Palestinian delegation was sent for consultation with King Husayn about explanations and clarifications of the agreement which will be announced by the Palestinian side following the uproar regarding the issue. Did the the delegation return with positive results?

Answer: We did not send a delegation, we sent an envoy who went to meet with his majesty the king to talk to him and find out his views regarding the amendments that I sent to his majesty on 14 February 1985, that is, 3 days after the agreement. His majesty's reply was positive and welcomed the arrival of a Palestinian delegation in Amman to discuss these points.

Question: The foreign minister of Jordan gave a Jordanian interpretation of the agreement whose essence is that Jordan wants a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and not an Arab delegation, and he says that the agreement is based on Security Council Resolution 242. What is the Palestinian attitude toward this interpretation of the agreement?

Answer: The Jordanian foreign minister has corrected this interpretation saying that we adhere to an Arab delegation and what is mentioned in the agreement concerns all parties, that is, all parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict. This interpretation given by the Jordanian information minister [as heard] was in its turn interpreted clearly by more than one Jordanian official.

Question: President Husni Mubarak has interpreted the agreement through the call for a move whose main headlines are: A joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation to negotiate with Israel under the auspices of America?

Answer: No, this is not an Egyptian interpretation of the agreement, rather these are ideas of which we were informed after their announcement. These are Egyptian ideas which President Mubarak believed might help give an impetus to action in relation to the Middle East problem. We had an opinion concerning these ideas, and the Jordanian brothers had their point of view. We announced our attitude clearly, and we brought it to the knowledge of President Husni Mubarak and to the brother Egyptian officials. We said we adhere to the Palestinian-Jordanian agreement, and we adhere to our resolution adopted by the PNC sessions. We say this while appreciating the efforts made by Egypt and its fraternal desire to serve the Palestinian cause from its viewpoint, of course, taking into consideration the importance and status of Egypt. But at the same time we express our opinion with openness and clarity to the brothers in Egypt as we do with all, but without allowing those who are lying in wait to fish in troubled waters or to try to harm the relationship between us and the brothers in Egypt.

Question: Can we say that the Egyptian proposals were not submitted to the PLO before their declaration?

Answer: Categorically no! We heard of them only after their announcement, and we sent to the Egyptian brothers our frank opinion of the proposals.

Question: Did the PLO know that Egypt will send to Israel representatives to explain the proposed points?

Answer: Absolutely no! I am not aware that the Egyptian representatives went to explain such points. I do not know whether he went to explain the Egyptian points, or to explain the Tabah problem or in connection with other outstanding issues between Egypt and Israel in line with the Camp David agreement, including the normalization problem or the issue of the return of the Egyptian ambassador. I do not know, and I do not claim to know what I do not know.

Question: Are you going to ask Egypt to stop moving on the basis of its proposals?

Answer: We cannot oblige Egypt concerning anything. We expressed our viewpoint, and it was expressed openly by more than one Palestinian official. But we cannot force our opinion on anyone. To my knowledge the Egyptian officials have shown respect and understanding for our viewpoint.

Question: In the light of the Jordanian interpretation and its amendments and in the light of the Egyptian effort to facilitate the implementation of the agreement? [question as heard]

Answer: No, here I object. The Jordanian interpretation is not an official one but the interpretation of a Jordanian official which was later corrected by several Jordanian officials. As for the Egyptian move, it by no means arises from the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement.

Question: Well, in the light of these many attitudes, interpretations and initiatives can you give the clear and simple Palestinian understanding of the agreement?

Answer: The agreement is aimed in accordance with clear clauses at ending the Israeli occupation and the occupation of all Arab territories, I repeat, all Arab territories. We must underscore the word all territories. This means the Golan, southern Lebanon, the Palestinian territories, and the Egyptian Tabah. There is more than one Egyptian Tabah and its concerns also in the first place Jerusalem. Everyone knows that Jerusalem is the most serious point in the Arab-Israeli conflict and in the Arab-American conflict. Even Shim'on Peres was insolent during his recent visit to the pope and disagreed with him on Jerusalem. But regrettably, the demagoguery prevalent in the Arab region does

not want to see these facts and does not want to ignore them, in order to conceal the crimes and to conceal Camp Murphy [as heard], for instance. What is the difference between Camp Murphy and Camp David? Camp David had an ugly Palestinian face and Camp Murphy has an ugly Palestinian face. It calls for two points: The nonreturn of the PLO fighters to south Lebanon and guaranteeing the security of the northern border of what they call Israel against the activity of the Palestinian fedayeen.

In addition, we said in the agreement that action should stem from an international conference under UN auspices to be attended by the five permanent member states of the Security Council and all the parties concerned in the Middle East conflict. I repeat all the parties including the PLO, sole legitimate representatives of the Palestinian people, on an equal footing with the other parties. Our opinion of the Palestinians, is that all this should be within a joint Arab delegation and the Jordanian viewpoint says within the context of a Palestinian-Jordanian delegation, and if the Arabs want to participate, there is no objection for this delegation to be Arab. I repeat that the Palestinian-Jordanian agreement is a draft plan for action between us and King Husayn and it is not a draft plan of action between us and America and not between us and Israel. It is not a Camp David agreement, and it is not a Camp Murphy agreement. Since the agreement took as a basis the resolution of the Fes summit, it has become clear that it stems from Arab ground.

Question: This understanding of the agreement, are you going to submit it in an open Palestinian document?

Answer: No but this is recorded in the official talks between us. They have their point of view and we have ours. All this is recorded in official protocols.

Question: Let us move to another point, which has raised questions and expectations in a large sector of the Palestinian and Arab masses, that is that more than one member of the Fatah leadership spoke about the agreement, some rejected it and some called for its amendment. During all this period you remained silent in your top leading position. Has not the time come for you to define the situation clearly: Are you with the agreement in its general clauses? Do you support the interpretation of the clauses and the announcement of the interpretation? Or do you support the freezing of the agreement and beginning a new dialogue?

Answer: First, I want to talk about the Palestinian views that were made public and have caused some confusion, and this is a matter to which we have grown accustomed in our Palestinian arena: The 1969 agreement with Lebanese Government was disputed; the Fes resolutions were disputed. This has become a feature of Palestinian action, and democracy is one of the sources of our pride. Anyone has the right to express his opinion, but all submit in the end to the resolution that is adopted.

Question: As a leader were you not annoyed by such attitudes?

Answer: I follow the saying of Omar, may God have mercy on the person who corrects a deviation by Omar. I have not come to my position with 99.9 percent and not even 99.97, and I have not arrived on the back of a tank. I came by means of free elections, and I told my brothers many times to spare me this hard task. I am a struggler and I consider this democracy as one of the sources of my strength. It is not a point of weakness. It is true that some brothers fume at a time. For instance, the words said by my brother George Habash which I would not have expected from him. As for some Palestinian opinions expressed in some Arab capitals, I do not pay attention to them. As the poet says, I do not lose any sleep. For instance, any action by Mitterrand is fiercely attacked by the opposition parties. Thatcher for instance faces a big problem from the workers. But democracy in the West accepts all this. In our Arab region, however, it seems that democracy is merely a point of view, while democracy in the Palestinian arena is not a point of view, rather it is a strong foundation in Palestinian dealing. As for the agreement, it was signed; it has become a Palestinian-Jordanian agreement; and I agree with announcing the agreement with the amendment agreed by the Palestinian leadership. I have so notified His Majesty King Husayn, especially since his majesty generously agreed to discuss these amendments and to accept the principle of its amendment.

Question: However there are those who say that some of the amendments are fundamental, and there are a number of points that need amendment that face you with an agreement of a new type and subsequently the start of a new dialogue.

Answer: This is not correct. It is known that when the Palestinian command, the Executive Committee and the Central Committee of Fatah movement met they said that there are three points for amendments and coordination. These points have been sent in a memorandum. As for the new dialogue, I say the dialogue will continue, but will continue to agree on many points, because this agreement with Jordan is the launching pad for an action. What will we do? How do we reach the international conference? Which are the Arab and international forces that will benefit from our relation with them in order to reach the international conference? What will the Arab move be? All these need lengthy discussions between us and Jordanian brothers and will not cease.

Question: Brother Abu 'Ammar: If we are to ask you to outline to the Arab and Palestinian reader, what are those aims for the Palestinian move?

Answer: We have unshakable aims. First, to end the Israeli occupation of all Arab territories including Jerusalem. This is a unshakable; Jerusalem specifically an unshakable aim. Second, to resolve the problem of Palestinian refugees from all its angles in accordance with UN resolutions. Third, to resolve the Palestinian question from all its angles, because the Palestinian question is not just a question of refugees. Fourth, the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and we do not agree to discuss or to toy with this point. Fifth, to establish the Palestinian state, noting that our PNC said at two consecutive sessions, the 16th and 17th, that this state is to united by confederation with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. This commits the Palestinian people and the Palestinian command. Fifth [as heard], we come from an Arab action, that is, the decisions of the Fes summit conference. Sixth: We cling to the

idea of the international conference, because we cannot resort to Anwar al-Sadat's method and we reject that method.

We, our Arabs and our friends, can hardly obtain something acceptable from Israel and America. What if we gave up our friends and our Arabs? What would we obtain? We would obtain only crumbs, and whoever wants to be satisfied with crumbs, let him look for another leader than myself and let him look for a leadership other than the leadership of the PLO.

Question: In the light of the Palestinian popular state of affairs, and in the light of relations with the factions parties to the Liberation Organisation, in the light of relations inside Fatah leadership, in the light of some Arab reactions opposed to the agreement, do you positively or negatively assess the yield of the Palestinian-Jordanian agreement?

Answer: I assess it positively popular. There is unanimity inside and outside the occupied land about the agreement. There some fears by some Palestinian sources. Here I say: It is the right of the Palestinian to have fears because we suffered much and we have come out from one massacre to another and from war to another and from one destitution to another and from one journey to another and from one exodus to another; hence it is the right of the Palestinian to have fears. This fear is legitimate. However at the same time, there is satisfaction with this agreement, because it translates and embodies what was agreed at the national councils, and because the agreement places the PLO once again at the closes point to Jerusalem, 30 km away from Jerusalem, because from Al-Salt mountains I can see the lights of Jerusalem. All this after the Israeli enemy thought that the PLO has departed from the encircling countries and are far away from it, after we left Beirut and Tripoli and after I was expelled from Damascus.

Question: In the sphere of the international diplomatic movement, do you believe that the agreement has achieved a success for the Liberation Organisation?

Answer: Naturally. The agreement has achieved a success and has found good reaction from many of our friends and cornered our enemies. It is not by chance that Menahem Begin came out from his isolation only to oppose the agreement. He did not interfere in the Israeli elections. He did not interfere in the subject of the Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon, he who is the author of theory of the war which he believed he would be its hero but became its criminal. Begin only came out from his silence only to attack the agreement. Is this by mere chance?

Question: Now let us talk about the negative reactions to the agreement. Syria opposed the agreement and considered toppling it an official policy.

Answer: Or so Al-Farazdaq claims [refers to Arab poet famed for defamatory writing and for being incorrect. Hence, Syria's claim of scuttling agreement is highly unlikely to occur]. He then adds slowly, before Syria works to topple this agreement, why does it not work to topple the Camp Murphy agreement? I had hoped that the Syrian leadership would say come let us fight together, and here is the Golan open to you. Instead of being prevented from return to southern Lebanon they ought to tell me, come let us return together to southern Lebanon to fight there together. However those Syrians who have any sense of shame are dead.

Question: Were you taken back by the stand of Democratic Yemen in the statement made in Damascus by President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad against the agreement?

Answer: I shall not answer him. However I would like to tell him one thing. He has no right, fraternally, at least not before hearing our view point. I do not want to go further. I have much to say about this subject. I love my brothers in Aden. I wish they would not fall into such an error.

Question: The Soviet Union's announcement that the agreement caused Palestinian divisions. Do you believe that to indicates Soviet opposition to the agreement?

Answer: No. I believe that the Soviet Union, since we differed with Syria, has stood with its Syrian friend more than with its Palestinian friend. I am not linked to it with a treaty of friendship. Naturally I a pragmatic man; I can understand the importance of the Syrian territory to the Soviet international strategy. The Palestinian revolution has no territory to offer.

Question: Will you be exerting efforts in Moscow's direction to explain the Palestinian stance and to discuss the Soviet remarks?

Answer: Efforts are continuing and our contacts with Moscow will not stop for one moment. We used to put them in the picture of the agreement as it developed.

Question: Regarding the factions, about which it could be said (?split off from the democratic front), which opposed and criticized the agreement, what is your comment on their stance?

Answer: I do not want to embarrass them. They knew the details of the agreement and I am surprised at their stance.

Question: Brother Abu 'Ammar, in the light of the Palestinian-Jordanian agreement and in the light of the King Fahd's talks in Washington, do you believe that we have taken a step forward along convening the Arab summit?

Answer: No, never; Syria rejects the Arab summit for two reasons, the first, because of her stance vis-a-vis the Iraqi-Iranian war and the second is its dispute with the Palestinian revolution. Hence it vetoes the convening the Arab summit. This veto is continuing despite all the efforts of Saudi Arabia to overcome the obstacles facing the convening of the summit.

Question: This means that you do still believe that the convening of the Arab summit is a postponed matter?

Answer: Yes. This is my belief.

Question: Since the summit is remote do you believe that the Palestinian-Jordanian move could proceed forward?

Answer: Without any doubt; however the picture must be clear before us. This agreement, even if the five big powers collectively

agree to it, would need 2 years to be implemented. Then what if there were a declared American rejection, European position rejecting or hesitant.

Question: Do you believe that development or a positive stance has developed after the announcement of the agreement?

Answer: The development is small and is not encouraging.

Question: What about France's invitation for Peres to make a move in the direction of understanding?

Answer: I do not believe that this change in the French stance is a serious one.

Question: If you permit, let us turn to talk about another subject, the subject of the Israeli withdrawal from Tyre region.

Answer: The Israeli withdrawal was matched by Syria's withdrawal of twelve thousand soldiers. The Syrian minister of information announced that those soldiers will be positioned along the long Syrian borders with Jordan, Iraq and Turkey.

Question: On the occasion of the Israeli withdrawal, before the withdrawal there was much talk about the breakout of sectarian war in Sidon and massacres against the Palestinians in 'Ayn al-Hilwah camp. Does it appear now that Sidon and 'Ayn al-Hilwah camp have bypassed this crisis?

Answer: The fear is still there. Fighting broke out few days ago in Al-Kharrub and Al-Jiyyah areas. How far will this fighting go? The second point, the more serious, is that there are Syrian units dressed in Palestinian clothes gathering in Al-Mudayrij area and they want to push part of them to the Tyre camps and part to the Beirut camps. However the moves carried out by the Lebanese leaders in both Sidon and Beirut postponed this operation. There was a feverish reaction (?especially) after it became clear that the loyalty of the camps is for the Palestinian revolution. One feels proud with the stance embodied by the people of these camps through the men, women and children and which projected the role of the presence of the PLO following the military withdrawal of the Palestine revolution. This stance replied to Begin and Sharon when they spoke about crushing the Palestinian revolution and striking its roots.

Question: In order for these units to succeed in striking at the camps, they must pass through the Lebanese areas.

Answer: Regretably some Lebanese areas have given the green light and we are in contact with them in an attempt to deter them from this.

Question: If we were to ask you to address the people of Sidon and the 'Ayn al-Hiiwah camp, what would you tell in these circumstances?

Answer: I tell them: Be proud that your steadfastness was the most brilliant that occurred in confronting this American-Israeli invasion, because the second town after Beirut to hit with force was Sidon. As it is known the camp was hit in an ugly manner so that one of the foreign jouranlists described it saying no wall was left standing in the camp. It is enough for those steadfast people in Sidon, 'Ayn al-Hilwah [word indistinct] that they stood fast in the face of this injustice and repression and in the face of the massacres which did not cease for one day throughout the period of occupation. As for those who rebuilt the camp, they were the children and the women, because the men of the camp were for a long time in Ansar detention camp. This is a matter of pride for this Palestinian people.

With pride I say that this relationship indicates the slogan of the Lebanese masses and in which they called for embracing the Palestinian masses and baptized this with blood and with hot confrontations and with the processions of martyrs and with the joys of victory. Through this they were able to crystalize with pride this genuine Lebanese-Palestinian relationship, they were able to set up a Lebanese-Palestinian intermarriage; however it is a resistance intermarriage, where the Lebanese resistance person fights with his fraternal Palestinian resistance person side by side. They have lived together the bitterness of detention in Ansar and the bitterness of the massacres, the bitterness of imprisonment and being pursued, and then they together recorded the joy of victory.

Question: The current Israeli repression campaign against the villages of southern Lebanon and against the Al-Rashidiyah and (?Al-Bus) — is it merely a military repressive operation or does it also have political aims?

Answer: It definitely has political aims. They want to remain in the border belt, and hence they want to impose full control. It is no by mere chance that the Israeli bulldozer operating in Al-Duhaysah camp, the West Bank, is the same bulldozer now operating in the Lebanese village of Ma'rakah. This Israeli invasion will be known in history as the bulldozer invasion. They want to empty the Lebanese areas of inhabitants and to affect demographic changes in them.

Question: In the light of the Israeli withdrawal all Israeli strategic aims of the war declared against the Liberation Organisation in 1982 have failed; it failed to destroy the Liberation Organisation; it failed to get rid of the Palestinian people; it failed to impose a pro-Israel regime. Is this Israeli failure, however, matched by a Palestinian gain?

Answer: Naturally, I say this with pride. To explain I say, we, as proven by experience, have not lost the Lebanese positions. We have lost a position for the presence of the leadership in Lebanon, we still have 450,000 citizens in Lebanon and no one can erase them from existence. What is more important is that our Lebanese allies' base has returned to the point of cohesion, and this is another source of Lebanese and Palestinian gains in confronting the invasion. The Israelis has won a battle however they lost the war.

Dialogue Continues on PLO-Jordan Accord

JN121740 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1614 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Brother Abu al-Adib [Salim al-Za'nun], PNC deputy speaker and Fatah Central Committee member, has asserted

that dialogue continues between the PLO and Jordan on differences of opinion concerning the joint delegation and the Palestinian state united in a confederation with Jordan. These differences are mentioned in the text of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement on the fomula for a joint political move which was recently reached in Amman. In a press statement published in Kuwait today, Brother Abu al-Adib pointed out that the Jordanian side published the clauses of the agreement before presenting and explaining it at a joint meeting of the PLO Executive Committee and the Fatah Central Committee.

Abu al-Adib noted that the agreement is based on the Fes and UN resolutions as well as on the Soviet initiative. The agreement clearly abides by the Palestinian people's inalienable rights. He asserted that amendments have been made to the agreement by the Palestinian side. These amendments led to the PLO Executive Committee and the Fatah Central Committee agreeing on the accord.

PLO Official Meets With Algerian Minister

LD122339 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] PLO representative in Algeria Brother Abu al-'Izz today met with M'hamed Hadj Yala, with member of the FLN Political Bureau and minister of interior of Algeria. Discussions covered latest developments in the Palestine question. Abu al-'Izz briefed Yala on events in the Palestinian arena. The discussions also covered the problems of the Palestinian community in Algeria and the finding of solutions for them in the light of the extraordinary conditions the Palestinian people are living through.

Al-Biqa' Palestinians To Join Nationalist Command

LD111938 Tripoli JANA in English 1745 GMT 11 Mar 85

["Palestinian B.P.C.'s in Al-Biqa' To Join Command" — JANA headline]

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada Thani 18, March 11, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Masses of Palestinian Arab Basic People's Congresses in theAl-Biqa' have announced their joining the Nationalist Command of the Arab homeland revolutionary forces, this came in their cable to the leader which read:

Brother leader of the Great Al Fatih Revolution:

Your speech at the final session of the G.P.C. on the 8th anniversary of the people's authority declaration in which you announced the formation of the Nationalist Command was the wizest response to Zionism, imperialism and Arab reaction, expressing the hope and aspirations of our Arab people from the Atlantic to the Gulf, to put an end to U.S.-Zionist fascist arrogance. The forces of Palestinian Arab B.P.C. in the land of reality, the Al-Biqa', announce their joining the Nationalist Command, stressing that the response would be as great as though you have, as strong as the ideology you embrace.

May you always remain ahope and support for the Arab nation.

Forward we go, Al Fatih for ever, the revolutionary struggle continues.

Israeli Patrols Attacked South of Tyre

JN121720 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1614 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Heroes of the Palestinian-Lebanese joint forces detonated highly explosive remote-controlled charges under a Zionist military patrol while it was passing south of Tyre, in occupied southern Lebanon, yesterday. The explosion destroyed a half-tracked vehicle, damaged another, and killed or wounded their occupants. Using machineguns and rocket, heroes of the joint forces also attacked a Zionist military patrol while it was passing near Al-Nabatiyah in occupied southern Lebanon, yesterday. The attack destroyed a Zionist military truck, and killed or wounded its occupants.

The Zionist military spokesman admitted the two operations, but refrained from revealign the losses. He said that his forces immediately launched large-scale search and detention campaigns in search of the joint forces' heroes, but to no avail.

GULF AFFAIRS

Press Urges Mediation in Iran-Iraq Conflict

GF120936 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0645 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Manama, 12 Mar (WAKH) — A Bahraini newspaper has warned that so long as the Iraq-Iran war continues there will be a threat of its escalation and proliferation at any moment, though at the moment it may be restricted to border skirmishes between the two countries.

Commenting editorially on the war, the newspaper *AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ* said today that the assaults on civilian targets in Iraq and Iran had stopped last summer and the agreement to refrain from shelling the cities was valid until last week. Suddenly, the civilians in the two countries found themselves subject to killing, artillery shells, bombing, and explosive charges. This was followed by Iran's shelling of Basra.

The paper pointed out that nobody knows what triggered this sudden outbreak of shelling and the intentions behind it; that is why preliminary approval to halt the attacks on civilians and to renew the agreement forged earlier by the UN secretary general is not enough. It is incumbent, particularly on Iran, to halt this war so that the violation of the agreement will not be repeated.

The UAE newspaper *AL-BAYAN* has called on the Arab and Islamic countries, in addition to Third World countries, to quickly form senior delegations with the aim of persuading the decisionmakers in the Iraq-Iran war to retract their decision to strike at cities and residential quarters and to continue the good offices mediations until an agreement is reached to halt the fighting between the two Muslim countries and settle the dispute peacefully.

BAHRAIN

Pakistani Naval Chief Received by Heir Apparent

GF111636 Manama WAKH in English 1545 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Text] Manama, 11 Mar (WAKH) — Deputy Amir of Bahrain and Commander in Chief the Bahrain Defense Forces Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah received here today Commander of the Pakistani Fleet Royal Admiral Said Mohammad, currently visiting Bahrain.

The meeting was attended by chief of staff of the BDF Brigadier Shaykh Khalifah ibn Ahmad Al Thani and the Pakistani charge d'affaires to Bahrain.

KUWAIT

Crown Prince Sends Condolences to Supreme Soviet

LD121423 Kuwait KUNA in English 1358 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Kuwait, March 12 (KUNA) — H.H. the Crown Prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah Tuesday sent a message of condolences to the Supreme Soviet on the death of the Soviet leader Konstantin Chernenko. H.H. sent a similar message to the Soviet Premier Nikolay Tikhonov.

Delegation Leaves for Moscow

LD121649 Kuwait KUNA in English 1448 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Kuwait, March 12, (KUNA) — Adviser at the Amiri diwan 'Abd al-Rahman al-'Atiqi left for Moscow Tuesday afternoon for the funeral of the Soviet leader Konstantin Chernenko. Hamad al-Obaydi, counsellor at the Protocol Department of the Foreign Ministry accompanied Al-Atiqi.

The Soviet ambassador to Kuwait Dogos S. Akopov and Soviet Embassy staff saw the Kuwaiti delegation off at the airport.

Prime Minister Congratulates Gorbachev on Election

LD121626 Kuwait KUNA in English 1409 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Kuwait, March 12 (KUNA) -- H.H. the Crown Prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah sent a message of congratulations Tuesday to Mikhail Gorbachev on his election as secretary general of the Soviet Communist Party.

OMAN

Sultan Inaugurates Steam Pumping Project

GF111400 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Excerpts] His Majesty Sultan Qabus Al Bu Sa'id this morning attended the inauguration of the experimental steam pumping station at the Marmul oil installation.

Following that His Majesty inspected the Oman Oil Development Company exhibits representing the stages of oil extraction. His majesty then visited the company's control room where he was briefed on the work of the station. His majesty made an inspection tour of a number of oil installations in Marmul.

It is worth mentioning that this station is the third of its kind in the world after stations in the Netherlands and Venezuela and is the first in the Middle East. The station aims to use steam to raise the level of heavy oil, converting it to light oil. The station consists of five big boilers, four of which operate simultaneously and the fifth is used in cases of malfunction and routine maintenance. The boilers produce 4,400 tons of high pressure steam daily with a temperature of 300 centigrade and under pressure of between 5,000 to 15,000 kilo pascal. The energy from the steam is used in pumping heavy oil rigs.

QATAR

Amir, Heir Apparent Cable Condolences to USSR

GF131026 Doha QNA in Arabic 0915 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] Doha, 13 Mar (QNA) — Amir of Qatar His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani has sent a condolence

cable to the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium on the death of Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko. Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari heir apparent and defense minister, sent a similar condolence cable.

UAE

President Cables Condolences on Chernenko

GF121025 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] President of the state, His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan has sent a condolence cable to the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium expressing his sincere condolences on the death of Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko.

Explosion in Jordanian Plane in Dubayy 9 Mar

GF130800 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0600 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] Dubayy, 13 Mar (WAKH) — The General Command of the Dubayy police has reported that an explosion took place last Saturday [9 March] in one of the storage holds in a plane of the Jordanian Airlines, Alia. There were no casualties and no damages to the plane.

A statement issued by the command and carried by WAM reported that the explosion took place at 1005 on Saturday while Dubayy International Airport workers were removing luggage from the storage hold. The plane was coming from Karachi en route to Amman in Jordan. It was flight No 191.

The statement reported that airport security officials instantly revealed the incident and questioned the passengers. An 18-year-old Arab was arrested. He admitted that he was recruited by an Arab country and given a forged passport. He stated that he left for an Arab country and stayed there for about 1 month where he was given the necessary instructions to execute this operation. He then arrived in Karachi and stayed there for 2 days. During his stay, he met with a person who handed him a bag that was later found — after being checked by the Dubayy police — to contain explosives.

The statement added that the plane departed Dubayy airport safely after a few hours and after undergoing a thorough search by explosive experts and the Dubayy police.

PDRY

Chairman, Ethiopian Leader Depart for Moscow

GF121400 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Excerpts] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, left Aden for Moscow today. The chairman is accompanied by Lieutenant Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Ethiopia, chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council, and commander in chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces. They will participate in the funeral ceremonies for Konstantin Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, who died on Sunday.

The chairman is accompanied by a delegation that includes Salih Nasir [words indistinct], member of the Political Bureau of the YSP Central Committee; 'Abd al-Ghani 'Abd al-Qadir, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the YSP Central Committee; Ahmad Musa'id Husayn, member of the YSP Central Committee and minister of state security; Dr 'Abdallah Ahmad Bukayr, member of the YSP Central Committee and minister of health.

Lt Col Mengistu Haile Mariam arrived in Aden today to accompany Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad to Chernenko's funeral.

Chairman Sends Congratulatory Cable to Gorbachev

GF121840 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 Mar 85

["Text" of congratulatory cable from 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, to Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev, on his election as general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee — date of cable not given]

[Text] On the occasion of your election as the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, it pleases me to extend to you the warmest and sincere greetings on my behalf and on the behalf of the YSP Central Committee, wishing you health, happiness and success in the great responsibilities you have assumed.

I would like to take this opportunity to express our satisfaction and appreciation for the great developments in the friendship and cooperation relations between our parties and countries, and in the embodiment of the unity of goals and principles for which we are struggling together to bring about victory and raise the banner under the great ideas of scientific socialism and the international proletariat. We affirm to you our intention and determination to resume expansion and development in all party, government and and popular fields.

The record of the Yemeni-Soviet friendship is full of noble feats expressing the Soviet Union's loyalty to the principles of the international proletariat through its great and various forms of support which the Soviet Union has and is still providing to our country in order to develop the current revolutionary process in our country under the YSP's leadership and in order to achieve the social development of our country. The deep-rooted friendship between our country and the Soviet Union has become one of the most significant phenomenons of our people and a source of power for the struggle our party is waging in order to complete the responsibility of the national democratic revolution of socialist dimensions.

We are confident of your ability to bear the burdens of the great duty which you are charged with, thanks to the CPSU's great

experience and thanks to the strong unity which links the Soviet Communists with all the workers of the Soviet Union.

Once again Mikhail Gorbachev, accept our hearty congratulations and our wishes to you for continued success.

YAR

Prime Minister Leaves for Chernenko's Funeral

GF122000 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and member of the Standing Committee, today left Sanaa for Moscow, heading a high-level delegation at the funeral of the late Soviet president, Konstantin Chernenko.

The delegation includes Brother Dr Hasan Makki, the president's adviser and member of the Standing Committee; Lieutenant Colonel 'Abdallah al-Bashiri, chief of staff and member of the Standing Committee; Lieutenant Colonel 'Abd al-Latif [name indistinct], member of the Advisory Council; Dr Muhammad al-'Ali, the prime minister's adviser for economic and financial affairs; and a number of other officials.

President Congratulates Gorbachev on Election

GF130546 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 12 Mar 85

["Text" of congratulatory cable from Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, to Mikhail Gorbachev on his election as general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee — date of cable not given]

[Text] Dear friend Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Moscow:

On the occasion of your election as general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, it pleases me to express to you my sincerest and best congratulations. I wish you success in your new task of leading your friendly country, and I wish the good relations between our countries more development and expansion.

[Signed] Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah, president of the YAR, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress.

Mubarak Holds 'Private Meeting' With Reagan

NC122053 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2000 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Washington, 12 Mar (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak had a 45-minute private meeting with U.S. President Ronald Reagan at 1130 Washington time today. The two leaders met at the Oval Office in the White House. An open meeting followed with the participation of Egyptian and U.S. officials. Among the Egyptian participants in the meeting were: Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif; Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid; Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, minister of planning and international cooperation; Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary of the Foreign Ministry and director of the presidential office for foreign affairs; and Dr Sultan Abu 'Ali, deputy director of the Investment Authority. Among the U.S. participants were: Secretary of the Treasury James Baker; Robert McFarlane, assistant to the president for national security affairs; and Deputy Secretary of State Kenneth Dam. The open meeting will be followed by a working luncheon which will be attended by the Egyptian and U.S. officials who are participating in the talks.

Makes Statement After Meeting

NC122228 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2130 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Washington, 12 Mar (MENA) — President Mubarak made the following statement after his meeting today with U.S. President Ronald Reagan at the White House:

President Reagan, it was a great pleasure to meet with you once again in the framework of friendship and fraternity which characterizes our relations. As always, I found our conversations very constructive and rewarding. Our meeting today reaffirmed my belief that you are an honest man with a (?clear perception). It is fortunate that our meeting today coincides with the 150th anniversary of the establishment of bilateral relations. Throughout these years we have endeavored to set up a model for cooperation among nations. Our bilateral relations are moving from good to excellent. We have no problems in paving the way for more mutually advantageous cooperation. We are conducting our relations on the basis of mutual respect and profound understanding. Each Egyptian recognizes your appreciation of the efforts the Egyptian people are exerting toward economic development and reform.

On the other hand, your commitment to peace and justice in our part of the world is unwavering. I am pleased to note that we both agree on the centrality of the Palestinian issue to the situation in the Middle East. It is the key to progress and the source of tension; hence, we should devote ourselves to the achievement of a just and honorable peace without delay.

I believe that no nation is more qualified than the United States to support the Palestinian people's right for self-determination. This is a position that is consistent with the U.S. heritage and values. This country was founded on the principle that all men are equal and are created by God to live in freedom and dignity.

I also believe that no leader is more capable of playing an historic role and of fulfilling a sacred mission in the Middle East. Destiny has chosen you to lead this great nation at a time when a golden opportunity for peace is emerging.

The Jordanian-Palestinian agreement to pursue a peaceful settlement is a major step that should not be discounted or discarded. We cannot afford another missed opportunity for peace, (?and not during) your presidency. I am confident that the United States will act without delay in order to keep the momentum going and to pave the way for further progress. We have discussed the variety of available options for following up this move. In the months ahead we will work together as faithful partners on the road to peace. We will persevere in our drive to bridge the gap existing between the positions of the parties and [words indistinct] a new era of peace [words indistinct]. We realize that the task is difficult and the challenge is great, but the cause is greater.

President Reagan, during the past few days, and over the years, you have offered your help to the African countries which are suffering from drought and famine. This has been appreciated by the African brothers. Let me suggest that the United States lead an international campaign to cope with the problem on a long-term basis. I would like to express our confidence that the United States will spare no effort to end the plight of our brothers in southern Africa and secure the immediate independence of Namibia. Again Mr President, thank you, dear friend. I am looking forward to meeting with you again in pursuit of our common goals.

Mubarak Discusses Mideast Issues With Congressmen

NC130948 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2300 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Washington, 12 Mar (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak met this afternoon with some prominent members of the U.S. Congress. On this occasion, the president said: I am pleased to meet you once again in this cordial atmosphere. This meeting epitomizes the friendship and understanding between our people. Let me take this opportunity to express our great appreciation for the role played by Congress in consolidating bilateral friendship and cooperation. I realize that you pay great attention to Egypt and to the major role that Egypt can play in improving the chances for peace and stability in areas of importance to the United States and many other countries, such as the Middle East and Africa. You understand that a strong Egypt is a vital key to security and is the best guarantee for stability. I look at the map and see many [words indistinct] the world that may harm world peace, such as northern Africa, the African Horn, the eastern Mediterranean, and the Gulf.

Our perception of Egypt's role stems from the belief that there is no real conflict of interest within the Third World. This is why we are trying to solve some of the problems in the Third World in order to reduce tensions. We stand firmly against extremism and violence and against the polarization of or area by foreign powers. We believe that the real challenge facing us is that of economic and social development through hard work and self-realiance. During the past 3 years we have intensified our efforts for economic reform. We have rebuilt our infrastructure and we have modernized our production system. Great strides have been made unhesitatingly. We are trying to solve the great problems

facing us and we have put our economy on the right track. But all our actions should be gradual in order to maintain economic stability.

The president then moved on to the situation in the Middle East. He said: As you know, peace for us is a strategic goal and a moral commitment. It is an unshifting policy [words indistinct] more than having peace between Egypt and Israel. We are dedicated to a comprehensive peaceful settlement between Israel and all its neighboring Arab countries. Several encouraging developments have taken place during the past few weeks, Mubarak said. Jordan and the Palestinian movement have, with our encouragement, reached an agreement to seek a negotiated settlement. Mubarak said that the United States cannot undertake its peace role without the Palestinian movement.

The president said: There are also signs of moderation on the part of the Israeli Government. If we do not act together to encourage this trend and make some progress toward peace, the forces of extremism will gain the upper hand.

The president said: I have discussed some options with President Reagan and Secretary of State Shultz. I would be glad to discuss these options with you as well and listen to your proposals. We do not have any hard and fast demands [words indistinct] that the negotiations begin with all the concerned parties, including the Palestinians. The rest is mere detail and is open for discussion.

President Mubarak said: I have noticed that [words indistinct] think that the relation between Egypt and Israel is going through a crisis. Some mentioned cold peace and spoke about difficulties in naturalization. The truth, however, is that there is no crisis. Communication is taking place on formal and informal levels. Israel participated in [words indistinct] and an agreement was reached to set up an Israeli educational institute in Egypt and we will set up ours in Israel.

The president then asked the congressmen to ask questions. They asked him about the Middle East peace, Egyptian-Israeli relations, and other issues of interest to the United States. The president answered these questions frankly and clearly. He explained the Egyptian position on all the area's issues, the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, and current efforts for peace.

Mubarak on PLO Representation, U.S. Response

PM121439 Cairo AL-AHRAM International Edition in Arabic 9 Mar 85 pp 1, 3

[Afkar al-Kharadili report: "Mubarak Tells Reporters After Talks With Mitterrand: What Matters Now Is Reaching Agreement on Principles Which Could Lead to Peace"]

[Excerpts] Paris -- President Husni Mubarak has stated that his talks with President Francois Mitterrand were constructive and that there was considerable closeness in their views on future moves in the Middle East. The president was talking to reporters after his 2 and 1/2 hour talk with President Mitterrand.

Asked if it was necessary for the PLO to participate directly in the negotiations and, if so, how he intended to convince President Reagan of that, President Mubarak replied: We will have to try. This is a difficult process, but we must hold discussions with President Reagan. I cannot guarantee that I will be able to convince President Reagan 100 percent, but I will never despair. Where there is life there is hope.

The president added: I believe that as long as there is something new in the ideas and the moves, it [the United States] must respond and react to the new spirit.

I believe that so long as the United States is interested in a just settlement and in peace in the region, it must consider and it must help. I believe that its reaction has so far been somewhat positive.

Delegation Departs for Chernenko Funeral 13 Mar

NC130839 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0030 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Cairo, 12 Mar (MENA) — Dr Subhi 'Abd al-Hakim, Consultative Council speaker and NDP secretary general, left Cairo after midnight as head of the Egyptian delegation to Moscow to offer his country's condolences on the death of Soviet leader Konstantin Chernenko.

Before leaving, Dr Subhi 'Abd al-Majid said that his delegation will offer condolences to the new Soviet leader, adding: We are satisfied with the statements made by new CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev.

We hope that they will help to ease world tension, curb armaments, and establish world (?peace).

PRC Vice Premier Concludes 2-day Visit

NC121549 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1515 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Cairo, 12 Mar (MENA) — Zhang Jingfu, PRC State Council vice premier, left Cairo this afternoon for Kuwait following a 2-day visit.

He was seen off at the airport by the PRC Embassy staff.

Ma'ruf Extends Condolences; Officials to Moscow

Vice President Offers Condolences

JN131009 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0910 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Mar (INA) — Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf, RCC member and vice president, visited the USSR Embassy in Baghdad this morning and offered condolences on the death of the late Soviet leader Konstantin Chernenko.

'Aziz Departs for Moscow

JN121537 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1517 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Paris, 12 Mar (INA) — Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Paris for Moscow this afternoon to participate in the funeral of the late Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko with the Iraqi delegation led by 'Izzat Ibrahim, RCC vice chairman.

Earlier today, Tariq 'Aziz attended the meeting held by the Arab ministerial committee in charge of following up the developments of the Iraq-Iran war. French President Francois Mitterrand received the committee members at Elysee Palace this morning.

RCC Vice Chairman Departs

GF121400 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim left Baghdad for Moscow today leading an Iraqi delegation to the funeral of Comrade Konstantin Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. 'Izzat Ibrahim was seen off at the airport by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; ministers; and the Soviet ambassador in Baghdad.

Reportage on Military Conflict With Iran

Communique No 1,768

JN121943 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Communique No 1,768 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 12 March 1985]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Once again the Iranian regime unmasks its ugly face in another abortive attempt to desecrate Iraq's pure soil. Once again this regime reveals its disregard for its citizens' lives. Once again this regime proves its abject stupidity and ignorance of the balance of power and facts that govern the conflict. This time, too, the Iranian rulers willingly supplied evidence of their inability to confront great Iraq. As for you, O proud Iraqis, may God be with you, because you are the owners of right which you are defending. Victory will be your lot, because you are building and defending life under the best leader for the best people. The following is a roundup of activities for yesterday evening and today:

1. At 2230 [1930 GMT] yesterday, 11 March, the criminal enemy pushed its forces to the western edges of Hawr al-Hawizah. The enemy tried hard to expand the crossing points where it was present but our valiant forces confronted them, and the enemy failed miserably in front of our heroic forces' steadfastness. After checking and containing the enemy, the first force that reached the area — that is, the Sa'd force under the command of Staff Brigadier General Iyad al-Rawi and under the supervision of Staff Major General Sa'di Tu'mah al-Juburi — managed in resolute attacks and perfect performance to purge the areas extending between Lisan Hawizah and Al-Rawtah of the enemy's filth after the enemy personnel either fell dead or fled. Our force advanced to destroy all enemy resistance.

2. The force in charge of defending Basra under the command of Staff Brigadier General Ihsan Kamil Shabib and under the supervision of Staff Maj Gen Sa'di Tu'mah al-Juburi also began to completely mop up the Al-Rawtah area and to destroy all resistance in this area.

3. Our Armed Forces are preparing to launch a counteroffensive against the remaining enemy forces, while other units are continuing to press hard on these remnants in order to inflict the largest possible losses on the enemy.

4. Very large numbers of enemy personnel were killed and very large numbers were wounded. Moreover, four Chinook helicopters carrying soldier were destroyed along with a large number of boats and equipment. Quantities of weapons and equipment were seized. Numbers of the enemy personnel were captured.

5. We call on the forces that the crazy criminals in Tehran have thrown in to withdraw from our territory or raise a white flag. Otherwise, their destrcution and annihilation will be complete, God willing, at the hands of our valiant forces.

6. In reply to the Iranian regime's barbarism and aggression against our secure cities and in order to exact a just punishment upon those criminals, our Air Force planes carried out a series of raids on selected targets in Tehran, Zanjan, Arak, and Bushehr at 0200 last night. Our aircraft returned safely and triumphantly after accurately carrying out their duty, praise be to God. Between 2200 and 0200 last night, Baghdad time, destructive missile strikes were delivered to selected targets in Dezful and Masjed Soleyman, scoring accurate hits, praised be God.

7. In successful sorties, the heroic sky hawks continued to pour thunderbolts of right down on falsehood, teaching the enemy unforgettable lessons and destroying its defeated and humiliated remnants and equipment and weapons in the sector east of Tigris. They carried out 323 combat missions, after which they returned successfully and safely under God's protection and care.

8. In daring aerial raids, our helicopter gunships supported our capable units' activities to the east of Basra and Maysan sectors. Our helicopters chased the remnants of the collapsing Iranian clique. In successive blows, they destoryed 90 enemy boats, 17 troop assembly points, 4 hideouts, 7 observation posts, and several hardware stockpiles — fire was seen rising from them. Our

helicopter gunships returned safely to base, praise be to God, after carrying out 176 combat missions.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 12 March 1985

Iranians in Al-Hawizah Besieged

JN130655 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0612 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Mar (INA) — A field commander has stated that the Iraqi forces in Hawr al-Hawizah are imposing their control on the Iranian forces that infiltrated into the area. The field commander, the commander of the East Tigris forces, said that his forces have begun to besiege the areas where the offensive took place in order to pounce on the Iranian forces in accordance with a predetermined plan.

Spokesman on Al-Hawizah Battle

JN130927 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0847 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Fight them, and God will punish them by your hands, cover them with shame, help you to victory over them, heal the breasts of believers.[Koranic verse]

Proud Iraqis, and the sons of our Armed Forces wherever you may be in the battlefield: In pursuance of our Communique No 1,768 issued on Tuesday evening, 12 March, in which we explained the progress of the operations our valiant Armed Forces are carrying out with courage and capability, we bring you the good news that the enemy's attempt to expand the area on the western bank where it is present completely failed, and the enemy's dreams were frustrated. The force on the right flank under the command of Staff Brigadier General Iyad al-Sayyih al-Rawi and under the supvervision of Staff Major General Sa'di Tu'mah, resumed its attacks against the enemy, destroying its remnants, while on the left flank the force under Staff Brigadier General Sabih 'Umran al-Tarfah and under the supervision of Staff Major General Hisham Sabah al-Fakhri, continues to advance. The force on the left flank succeeded in destroying enemy remnants, confined [hasrihi] the enemy in the direction of Al-Hawr, and established a foothold on 'Ujayrawiyah after having destroyed the enemy forces present in 'Ujayrawiyah while the enemy remnants retreated to Lisan 'Ujayrawiyah which is also controlled by our units. At the same time, the units from the center are putting pressure on the enemy to narrow the area where the enemy is present, prior to exterminating it.

Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, Armed Forces deputy commander in chief, is coordinating the activities of all the forces and is supervising these activities in the field, assisted by Staff General 'Abd al-Jawad Zannun, Armed Forces chief of staff, and Staff Brigadier General Muhammad 'Abd al-Qadir, commander of the East Tigris operations.

We will provide you with the results of today's battle later. We will also provide you with the names of some of the commanders and units that are participating in the battle as well as the names of some of those who excelled in it. Let the great Iraqi people rest assured that their enemy's fate will be inevitable defeat. It is God who grants success.

[Dated] 13 March 1985

Iranian F-5 Shot Down

JN131131 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1123 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. While our valiant Armed Forces are destroying the remaining forces of the defeated enemy, the aircraft of our valiant Air Force have chased an Iranian F-5 plane deep inside Iran. The hawks of the air dealt it a deadly blow and shot it down over Al-Rida'iyah lake. The hawks of the air returned safely and triumphantly, praise be to God.

'Aziz Message to UN Head on Iranian Offensive

JN121844 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Mar 85

["Text" of message from Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, sent to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar on 12 March]

[Text] Mr Secretary General: In a message I sent to you on 10 March 1985, I informed you that our reconnaissance confirms that the Iranian cities near the Iraqi borders were used as concentration centers for the Iranian forces. In my message, I also indicated that we have definite information that the Iranian regime is currently massing large forces on the border regions with the aim of launching a new aggression against Iraqi territory.

I would like to inform you now that today, 12 March 1985, the Iranian regime's forces began an offensive against Iraqi territory through Hawr al-Hawizah. This confirms our expectations that the Iranian regime's violation of the 12 June [1984] agreement by shelling the city of Basra on 5 March 1985 was a prelude to new aggression on Iraqi territory. The current Iranian ground offensive confirms the Iranian regime's declared intentions, as embodied in its insistence on continuing its aggression against Iraq and on occupying its territory.

Therefore, we emphasize what was contained in our 10 March 1985 message to you on the need for you to hold direct contacts with the two sides in order to solve all the problems facing us according to clear, agreed on foundations.

[Signed] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the Republic of Iraq.

Press Examines Ability To Confront Aggression
JN131034 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0705 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Mar (INA) — The newspapers published here today assert that the escalation of the war and the shelling of cities are meant to cover the Iranian regime's preparations to carry out its new reckless adventure.

Under the headline "They Will Be Defeated," *AL-THAWRAH* says that the Iraqi forces continue to exterminate the Iranian remnants pushed into battle by the enemy, and that the Iraqi forces are giving them the choice of either withdrawing from Iraqi territory or raising the white flag. Otherwise, inevitable death will be their only fate.

The newspaper asserts that the Iraqi forces are at the highest degree of readiness and preparedness to fight and defeat the Iranian forces. Furthermore, the Iraqi forces are lying in wait for the Iranian forces in order to besiege them and to teach them the lesson they deserve.

The newspaper stresses that the Iranian rulers' insistence on continuing the war is futile and will only reap further catastrophes on the Iranian people.

Under the headline "We Are Victorious in Every Field," the newspaper *AL-JUMHURIYAH* says that Iraq is capable of inflicting the heaviest losses on the Iranian rulers and that no target in Iran is far from Iraq's strong arm or safe from its crushing blows.

The newspaper adds: They are retreating from one field to carry out another offensive in another field. As soon as they announced that they were ready to halt the shelling of cities, they carried out an offensive on Hawr al-Hawizah.

The newspaper affirms that this means that the Iranian rulers want to divide the war to their liking and to move into the areas which they think would be more advantageous and less harmful to them.

The newspaper calls on the international community to realize the aggressive nature of the Iranian rulers and to look at the war comprehensively when dealing with any of its aspects.

The newspaper stresses that the Iraqi forces are always ready to crush any new aggression and to prove Iraq's strength and fortitude in all fields. The Iranian rulers are unable now and will be unable in the future to achieve any of their wicked dreams.

Turkish Housing Minister Leaves Baghdad
JN121325 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Mar (INA) — Turkish Housing Minister Safa Giray and his delegation left Baghdad today following a 4-day visit to Iraq.

During his visit, Giray held talks with Iraqi officials on ways of bolstering the current cooperation between the two neighborly countries in the fields of housing and construction.

King Husayn Congratulates Gorbachev on Election

JN121315 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has sent a message of congratulations to His Excellency Mikhail Gorbachev on his election as general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. The following is the text of the message:

It is my pleasure to send to Your Excellency and to the friendly Soviet people, in my own name and on behalf of the people and Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, our heartfelt congratulations on your election as general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, which has strong relations of friendship and mutual respect with the USSR, is looking forward to consolidating and reinforcing these relations to achieve the common vital interests and mutual benefits of the two friendly countries and peoples. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Arab nation always appreciate the positive Soviet stand in support of Arab issues and the Arab Palestinian people's national legitimate right to regain their land and exercise their right to self-determination on their national soil. We are confident that you will continue Soviet support for the Arab cause and will consolidate Soviet relations with the Arab world within the framework of mutual confidence, friendship, and respect. We send you our heartfelt greetings and wishes of good health and happiness.

'Ubaydat-led Delegation Leaves for USSR

JN121323 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat left Amman for Moscow this morning at the head of an official Jordanian delegation to participate in Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko's funeral. The delegation comprises His Highness Prince Ra'd ibn Zayd, the chief chamberlain; Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri; and Lieutenant General Fathi Abu Talib, the chief of staff.

Further on Visit by Austrian Foreign Minister

Urged To Endorse Initiative

AU121007 Vienna NEUE KRONEN-ZEITUNG in German 12 Mar 85 p 4

[By Kurt Seinitz]

[Text] Amman — Yesterday Jordan urgently appealed to Austria to influence Israel with a view to having it adopt a positive attitude toward the new Jordanian-Palestinian negotiating initiative of King Husayn and PLO chief 'Arafat.

Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri said to his Austrian counterpart Gratz: "We are urging our friends to use their influence on Israel so as to ensure that the current unique chance for peace in the Middle East is not wasted." Gratz is the first official foreign visitor in Jordan since Husayn and 'Arafat made their negotiating offer to Israel ("peace and recognition in exchange for the return of the occupied territories"). Moreover, Jordan is the first non-European country to which Gratz has paid an official visit. This emphasizes the close relationship and friendship between the two countries.

The Austrian foreign minister condemned the Israeli occupation of the Arab territories and Israel's settlement policy there.

Meets With Prince Hasan

JN121328 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Amman — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan received Austrian Foreign Minister Leopold Gratz and his accompanying delegation in his office this morning. They discussed the existing bilateral relations, ways of consolidating these relations, and the situation in the Middle East in general and in the occupied Arab territories in particular. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri, the Jordanian ambassador to Austria, and the Austrian ambassador in Amman.

Makes Statement, Departs

JN121853 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Amman — Austrian Foreign Minister Leopold Gratz left Amman today after a 3-day visit to Jordan. During this visit, he met with a number of high-ranking officials and held talks on the latest developments of the Middle East issue and the means of promoting bilateral relations between the two countries.

Gratz told a PETRA correspondent that he held important political talks with the Jordanian officials and heard a detailed political report from His Highness Crown Prince Hasan on the Jordanian role in the area. He added that he became strongly convinced that the Jordanian proposal is a unique chance to achieve peace in the area. He said that his country will exert every possible effort to back the Jordanian proposal, since it is a serious and responsible proposal that offers a real chance for achieving peace in the area. On his assessment of the bilateral relations between his country and Jordan, he said that there are many chances for achieving closer cooperation in the political, economic, and cultural fields.

The Austrian minister was seen off at the airport by Salih al-Zu'bi, secretary general of the Foreign Ministry; the Jordanian ambassador to Austria; the Austrian ambassador to Jordan; and the heads of the protocol and political departments at the Foreign Ministry.

Djibouti Minister, Delegation Arrive in Amman

JN121912 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] A Djibouti economic delegation led by Fahmi Ahmed el Hag, minister of industry and industrial development, arrived in Amman today to hold talks with Jordanian officials in order to bolster trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. The Djibouti minister told PETRA that he carries a

personal message to His Majesty King Husayn from Djibouti President Hassan Gouled Apidon dealing with bilateral cooperation. He said that the Djibouti delegation's visit to Jordan at the invitation of Dr Jawad al-'Anani, industry and trade minister, is aimed at discussing and activating cooperation and economic, trade, and technical exchange between the two countries. He explained his country's disire to make use of Jordanian technical expertise to promote Djibouti's new developments in various fields.

At the end of the visit, which will last several days, the two sides will sign joint minutes covering the various spheres of cooperation between the two countries, particularly in the field of trade exchange, establishing joint industrial companies in Djibouti, encouraging the establishment of trade fairs, and exchanging visits by private sector representatives in both countries.

Cooperation Talks Begin

JN122005 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Amman — The Jordanian side led by Dr Jawad al-'Anani, industry and trade minister, and the Djibouti side led by Fahmi Ahmed el Hag, minister of industry and industrial development, began trade and economic talks at the Industry and Trade Ministry this evening. The talks dealt with ways to develop cooperation between the two countries in light of the agreement they signed in April 1983 to establish a Jordanian trade and industry fair in Djibouti in November and to develop and expand the framework of the joint investment cooperation by encouraging the Jordanian private sector to implement housing projects and prepare the economic feasibility of an industrial city in Djibouti with the help of the Jordanian public sector.

The two sides also discussed the possibility of setting up a permanent Jordanian commercial center in Djibouti and giving Jordanian businessmen a chance to implement several projects by using Jordanian raw materials. The talks also touched on the possibility of exporting Jordanian vegetables, fruits, and foodstuffs to Djibouti and opening a sea route between the ports of Aqaba and Djibouti.

Health Minister, Delegation Leave For Baghdad

JN121923 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Amman — Health Minister Dr Kamil al-'Ajluni left Amman for Baghdad this evening at the head of a Jordanian delegation to participate in the 14th session of the Arab health ministers' Executive Bureau and in the meetings of the 10th session of the Arab Health Ministers' Council, which will begin there on 16 March.

During the meetings, which will last 3 days, the participants will discuss health, medical, and scientific issues, as well as ways to promote coordination and cooperation among Arab countries in the health sphere in order to combat epidemic diseases. The participants will also discuss the deteriorating health situation in the occupied Arab territories.

House Statements on Iraq-Iran Conflict, Lebanon

JN121348 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Amman — The House of Representatives issued a statement today in which it called on the Muslim Iranian people to respond, as Iraq has, to peace calls addressed to them from all international organizations. In its statement the House said: As the Jordanian House of Representatives views with concern and sorrow the war waging between two Islamic countries, Iraq and Iran, it believes that its continuation will shed the blood of innocent people. This situation will open the door to international disputes, interference, and hegemony that could threaten the region's security.

The statement says: Therefore, the House calls on the Muslim Iranian people to respond to the peace calls addressed to them from all international organizations, just as Iraq has responded, to stop that destructive war.

In another development the House of Representatives condemned the barbaric aggression launched by the Israeli invasion forces against the Lebanese people. The House hailed the Lebanese people's heroism, struggle, and brave nationalist resistance movement. It urged the Arab nation's peoples and governments to save the brave Lebanese people and to support them in their ordeal.

AL-DUSTUR Views U.S. Veto in UN Against Lebanon

JN130948 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 13 Mar 85 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "The U.S. Blessing of the Israeli Aggression"]

[Text] The U.S. veto that Washington used at the Security Council last night against the Lebanese attempt to condemn Israel's brutal actions in occupied southern Lebanon represents a U.S. course that has continued to be misguided — a course that adopts aggression and approves operations of murder and terror that are unprecedented in history since the Nazi era which is condemned by all peoples and nations.

Despite international unanimity on condemning Israel's violation of the simplest human rights, UN principles, and the Geneva Convention, the U.S. representative did not hesitate to stand alone — without any moral reason or pretext acceptable to the UN Security Council member-states — to defend the new Nazism and use the veto against the draft resolution condemning the Israeli practices.

Although this U.S. stand is not new, and was expected by the Lebanese side that lodged the complaint, the impudent announcement of the veto after the unprecedented brutal Israeli practices, particularly in the village of Al-Zrariyah the day before yesterday, the U.S. defense of Israel and its prevention of any condemnation of it constitute encouragement to Israel's inhuman policies. Moreover, this stand makes the United States morally and politically responsible for the consequences of the Israeli practices.

The pressing question that arises regarding such a U.S. stand, and which has been repeated on all similar occasions, is: Why can the United States no longer conceal its historic bias for certain considerations that all the consecutive U.S. administrations were concerned for in the past? While asking this question, to which the current Arab situation may provide an answer, we cannot blame the United States alone for its indifference to the Arab stand and Arab rights while it realizes and the Arabs themselves realize that it will not meet with any possible reaction. On the contrary, the Arabs will further approach it and place matters in its hands.

However, the U.S. blessing of the current massacres in southern Lebanon that are carried out by the Israeli occupiers, and the U.S. moral and material support for Israel's actions against the Arabs, will eventually lead to further hostility to and hatred of the United States and all that it represents in this part of the world, whose sons' anger will be able to redraw the features of the Arab image in a manner that would force the United States to reconsider its stands and policies that are indifferent to this nation's issues and legitimate rights.

Al-Jumayyil Changes Mind; Karami Leaves for Moscow

NC121736 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] President Amin al-Jumayyil has changed his mind about going to Moscow to attend the funeral of late Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko. It has been decided that the Lebanese delegation will be headed by Prime Minister Rashid Karami, who left Beirut at 1900 today.

Karami To Brief Officials

NC122030 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid Karami left Beirut for Moscow this evening to represent President Amin al-Jumayyil at the funeral of late Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko. In a predeparture statement at the airport, Prime Minister Karami said: We will brief officials with whom we will meet during the visit on the ugly and barbaric acts being committed by the occupation enemy against our defenseless kinfolk and sons. We will prove to the entire world that this enemy is no longer abiding by international laws and norms.

Karami on Israeli Actions, Withdrawals

NC121443 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1210 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Statement made by Prime Minister Rashid Karami at an ordinary session of the Chamber of Deputies on 12 March — recorded]

[Excerpts] Were we to discuss the current situation, which is the result of 10 years or more of conflict, no one would disagree with anyone else. We are all pained by events in the country in the fields of security, national liberation, economics, and politics. Therefore, we must all work to snatch our people from the abyss. This is the only action that will allow us to define ways and means of emerging from the bad and worse and returning to the normal situation that we hope for and cherish.

As for our liberation, we all know that the occupying enemy, notorious for his barbarism, fascism, and inhumanity, covets our country, our wealth, and our resources. Therefore, whenever this enemy feels compelled to withdraw from our soil, he loses his temper. This is plainly evident in his barbaric actions.

When we went to Al-Naqurah at the UN secretary general's invitation to bring about Israel's withdrawal and to work out arrangements to protect citizens in the occupied areas, our objective was to achieve an unconditional withdrawal. From the first round and throughout the talks, we clashed with clear-cut Israeli plans and their true intentions, which seek to hurt us, partition us, and create agents who will help achieve their designs. The Israelis ignore UN forces and the UN Security Council's resolutions. It has always tried to have these forces deployed in areas where its interests, and not those of Lebanon, are served. That's why the Al-Naqurah talks failed. Israel alone is to blame for this failure.

Israel was forced to announce a three-stage withdrawal. When the first stage was completed and it saw that the sedition, disturbance, and chaos that it hoped for had not materialized, Israel launched its barbaric attacks on defenseless women and children and on the aged. It made no distinction between heroic resistance and defenseless people. Thus, Israel's image and reputation suffered before the entire world, as this cowardly behavior cannot be accepted by any human conscience. The heroic resistance operations launched against the occupation forces are in legitimate self-defense and seek to protect the country's sovereignty and its people's dignity. This has exposed Israel's grotesque image and evils before the world. From this premise, we lodged a complaint with the Security Council. We don't seek just one more resolution; we want to inform the world public of this bitter situation.

Shams Al-Din Warns U.S. Against Using Veto

NC121945 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Supreme Islamic Shi'ite Council, held a news conference at his home this afternoon in which he discussed the situation in the south following the massacre perpetrated by Zionist gangs against the sons of struggling Al-Zrariyah village. Shaykh Shams al-Din also discussed the Zionist occupation forces' practices against occupied Lebanese towns and villages. At the beginning of his news conference, Shaykh Shams al-Din requested everyone, particularly journalists, to forget personal problems and rise above them because this would safeguard internal unity and Islamic solidarity. His eminence was refering to last night's attempt on his life.

His eminence then pointed to Syria's move which was made upon the instructions of President al-Asad. He also noted Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam's recent efforts and the cooperative spirit demonstrated by all Lebanese parties. He expressed the hope that this initiative will be followed up at all levels, particularly at the Lebanese-Syrian level.

His eminence praised the positions of the countries which supported the Lebanese draft resolution at the UN Security Council. He reiterated his warning to the United States against using the veto. He also repeated his call to the regime and government to reconsider Lebanese-U.S. relations. He urged them to invite international delegations to visit the south so that they can witness the Israeli practices. Addressing Arab leaders, his eminence urged them not to be mere onlookers who simply watch events in south Lebanon.

Reportage on Reaction to U.S. Veto in UN

Al-Huss, Shams Al-Din Comment

NC130949 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] Lebanese Education Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has said that the U.S. veto on the UN Security Council of the Lebanese draft resolution condemning Israeli actions in southern Lebanon

contradicts the U.S. policy regarding human rights in other parts of the world. Al-Huss said that the U.S. veto is in fact a condemnation of Israel and the United States.

Al-Huss asks how the United States can prevent censure of Israel for blowing up houses, burning orchards, killing innocent people, and besieging villages in Lebanon while it condemns what it regards as human rights violations in other countries.

Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Shi'ite Islamic Council, has declared that the U.S. veto amounts to an approval of the Israeli terrorist actions.

He said: The United States wants the UN Security Council resolution to be balanced between Lebanon, which is unarmed, and Israel, which is fully armed; between occupied Lebanon and the invader Israel. Is this logical? Can the world be confronted with such logic? How can we not despair at the world and the international organizations' stands while facing such logic?

Karami on U.S. Veto

NC131236 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid Karami regards the voting at the UN Security Council as a victory for Lebanon despite the U.S. veto. In a statement sent to us by our colleague Ma'ruf al-Da'uq, who is accompanying Prime Minister Karami in Moscow, the prime minister says:

We lodged our complaint with the UN Security Council to protest the inhuman and Naziist actions of the occupier and enemy Israel against our peaceful people in southern Lebanon, western Al-Biqa', and Rashayya.

Our goal was to reveal these facts to the world public through the United Nations, which we consider as the appropriate forum for such issues. However, what can we do in face of the right of veto? This right of veto is used mostly to support the aggressor against the victim.

Nevertheless, thank Lebanon for uncovering such shortcomings and for exposing them to the international community, which will act one day to ensure an end to such abnormal actions at the expense of the oppressed and wronged people.

We regard the voting as a victory of the rights of the people who are struggling for their freedom and sovereignty against the one who is still closing his eyes to facts and behaves in blind partiality, thus encouraging the policy of aggression that creates the establishment of a just national struggle.

He added: We must affirm the role of the heroic national Lebanese resistance, which is opposing the occupation army, defending the dignity of Lebanon and the Arabs, and exposing the enemy's terrorism and attacks which hit only peaceful and innocent people. We thank the friendly states which supported our rights in the Security Council against the pressures brought upon us.

Veto Will 'Encourage' Israel

NC130913 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpt] The international community has condemned Israel with 11 votes in the UN Security Council supporting the Lebanese complaint. However, the U.S. veto prevented the resolution from being effective. Washington used its right to veto while Al-Zrariyah township was burying the martyrs of barbaric Israeli actions in a national funeral. The attending masses pledged to increase their steadfastness, to struggle for liberation, and to adhere to the national soil and the dignity of life however great the sacrifices. Meanwhile, 23 new bodies were recovered in the township following the savage attack during which homes were blown up along with their occupants. National resistance fighters have increased their operations and launched several heroic attacks, the most prominent of which was a suicidal operation that killed two people and wounded seven others, according to an Israeli admission.

Attention has focused on these heroic actions which reflect the determination for steadfastness and liberation and the unanimous will of the masses. This attention was manifested yesterday when the international community sided with Lebanon, condemned the aggressive practices, and called for a speedy unconditional withdrawal of the occupation forces.

Washington's veto of the UN Security Council's condemnation of the savage Israeli actions, which are beyond any imagination, amounts to a defeat of the international community. This community is convinced of the Lebanese complaint but is incapable [of action] in the face of the U.S. Administration's interference and its continual hostile position regarding the Lebanese people's steadfastness.

The U.S. Administration has compensated Israel by defeating the resolution and by offering further financial aid, as the Israeli finance minister declared in Washington. He obtained a definite promise for increased U.S. aid to Israel by $800 million during the current fiscal year, aid which perhaps will be used to cover the expenses of the terrorist actions waged by the Jewish state against southern Lebanon.

The new barbaric attacks waged by the enemy against Lebanon will infuse new blood and fuel into the people to maintain their jihad and resistance until liberation is achieved. The savage Israeli actions against the Lebanese people will increase the resistance against Israel through heroic operations. The massacres which Israel is perpetrating in the south, the latest of which was in Al-Zrariyah, remain a manifestation of the enemy's civilization and clearly indicate the confusion and deep dilemma experienced by the invading forces.

By defeating the Lebanese draft resolution at the UN Security Council, the U.S. Administration will encourage Israel to commit further massacres and challenge the international will to which the Zionist leaders have turned their back.

Christian Leaders Committed to Government Policy

NC131416 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1315 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] Christian spiritual, religious, and secular leaders met at the presidential palace today. After briefing those present on current developments, his excellency the president left the meeting hall. The conferees then discussed the situation and declared the following:

1. The policy that Lebanon has drafted for itself and to which all successive governments of various regimes have adhered, a policy that seeks to establish the unity of Lebanon and to consolidate the foundations of coexistence and cooperation with the Arab states within the framework of maintaining sovereignty, independence, and mutual respect, is the firm rule for each regime.

2. All Lebanese support the Lebanese authorities who seek, guided by these basic rules, to unite the Lebanese, to eliminate the consequences of the war, and to restore the state's authority over the land, people, and institutions.

3. The Lebanese people, especially the Christian groups, categorically reject all attempts to depart from these principles. Such a departure would create two risks for the people: the danger of disavowing Lebanese unanimity regarding firm rules and the danger of resorting to arms.

4. The conferees have decided to form a committee to be chaired by his beatitude, the Maronite patriarch. The committee will immediately act to unite the Christian ranks, to calm the situation, and to insist on the need to resort to conscience and to the dialogue that would lead, through understanding, to the realization of the interests of all Lebanese. At any rate, the president of the republic, by virtue of the powers vested in him by the Constitution, and in honoring his constitutional oath to safeguard the land, people, institutions, law, and order, has the right to adopt measures to safeguard Lebanon and the Lebanese.

Reportage on Samir Ja'ja'-Phalangist Party Feud

VOAL Details Dissension

NC130807 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] The war among the militias in East Beirut has actually begun. Yesterday's events in the eastern areas, from Beirut up to Jubayl and Kasrawan, raise several questions about future developments there, following the escalation of tension and division among the commands and members of the so-called Lebanese Forces in the wake of the Phalangist Party's decision to dismiss Samir Ja'ja' from the party.

It is obvious that the situation in the eastern areas was the only reason for the cancellation of President Amin al-Jumayyil's visit to Moscow and for the decision that Prime Minister Rashid Karami would attend the late Soviet leader's funeral.

Successive developments in the eastern areas, occurring in an atmosphere of anxiety and caution among the citizens and those who are under the militias' domination, have once again confirmed that existing differences are great and are not confined to minor issues, such as the removal of the Al-Barbarah roadblock. Fundamental differences exist on basic political, military, informational, and financial issues, producing rejection of every proposal for political solutions and reforms. Well-informed sources believe that a conflict will soon develop between the various branches of the militias, as control over the military establishment known as the Lebanese Forces is sought and they see the possibility of a split.

In an attempt to calm the situation and to satisfy the dissidents, Lebanese Forces Commander Fu'ad Abu Nadir declared at dawn today that the Lebanese Forces have decided to restore their independent decision-making and to take the necessary actions to implement this stand. Henceforth, the Lebanese Forces will not accept any solutions and negotiations arrived at without their consent. He noted that this stand was not directed specifically against anyone, either at home or abroad.

The decision was made following various meetings between the militias and party officials and talks with the political leaders, including President Amin al-Jumayyil, subsequent to the announcement by the Phalangist Youth Organization [Munazzamat Shabab al-Kata'ib] that it supports the alliance among Samir Ja'ja', Elie Hubayqah, Nizar Najarian, and Joseph Tutunji.

Meanwhile, gunmen have appeared and roadblocks have been established on all streets in areas controlled by the militias, particularly on the international highway between Beirut and Al-Madfun, which was cut by roadblocks separating the areas of Jubayl and Kasrawan from northern Al-Matn after Ja'ja's supporters took control of those areas.

Various areas witnessed clashes last night, including one that took place in Zuq Mikha'il at midnight, in which one person was killed and another was wounded.

Barracks Support Ja'ja'

NC130710 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0555 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] The action Dr Samir Ja'ja' is executing with a number of his comrades to regain the initiative in the Christian command and its ranks is about to be completed. Barracks and party centers in the areas of Beirut, southern al-Matn, Kasrawan, and Jubayl support the activity of Dr Ja'ja', which the citizens find reassuring. The road in the Nahr al-Kalb area is cut off and movement on it is currently difficult.

The forces of Dr Samir Ja'ja' are in control of the areas of southern Al-Matn and East Beirut. There is also troop deployment from the north in the direction of the Kasrawan area.

The barracks have expressed their support for Dr Ja'ja' and have joined his operation without any military clashes. The situation, therefore, is normal in the eastern areas and there is no need for anxiety.

Youth Organization Supports Ja'ja'

NC130802 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0600 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] The Christian Youth Organization has issued a statement saying that the Phalangist Party Political Bureau's decision to dismiss Dr Samir Ja'ja' from the party has caused considerable reaction, particularly in the eastern areas [of Beirut]. The most prominent reaction recorded was a proclamation by a new organization supporting the position of Dr Ja'ja' and his comrades. It is called the Phalangist Youth Organization [Munazzamat Shabab al-Kata'ib]. The organization issued a statement rejecting the Phalangist Party decision to dismiss Dr Ja'ja'. The statement said:

1. Through his position of rejecting the line pursued by the present Phalangist Party leadership, Dr Samir Ja'ja' expresses the opinion of an overwhelming party and popular majority, a grouping which daily is becoming more aware of the wide gap between it and the present leadership.

2. The dealings of the present party leadership with its popular bases lack political pragmatism and contravene the most fundamental principles of democracy. This is yet another aspect of the basic imbalance in the Phalangist Party at the level of the present leadership.

3. The present leadership's decision, which ignores those who reject it, is no more than ink on paper in light of its irresponsible and undemocratic nature, indicative of other decisions made by this leadership. The dismissal of Dr Samir Ja'ja' practically means the breaking away of a large sector of the base from the deviating party leadership. This strips the leadership of its last vestiges of legitimacy. It is therefore bringing about its own collapse.

4. On the basis of its principled stands and its goal to rectify the action of the present leadership, the Phalangist Youth Organization makes a last appeal to this leadership to act by its conscience and not its emotions and private interests. At the same time, preliminary efforts are underway to hold meetings among those leaders supporting Dr Ja'ja' and his comrades in order to come to a decision about forming a new collective leadership representative of all the Christian society's forces and figures. Information on this matter does not indicate if this new collective leadership will be within or outside the framework of the Lebanese Forces establishment.

'Influential Figures' Discuss Dismissal

NC130658 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] Gunmen appeared in the streets in East Beirut and the northern coastal road to Juniyah is cut until complications arising from the dismissal of Dr Samir Ja'ja' from the Phalangist Party are settled at the highest level. Influential figures are meeting at the presidential palace in B'abda for consultations to confront the issue wisely and to make an appropriate decision. Schools in East Beirut were closed today.

At dawn, Dr Fu'ad Abu Nadir, commander of the Lebanese forces, declared that the forces had decided to restore independent decisionmaking and to adopt all measures nessary to implement this in the political, security, financial, and information fields. In order to play a national role and to participate in any negotiations for solving the crisis, the Lebanese Forces must retain all the political, security, and other cards they possess until a solution is found.

The above was contained in an appeal made by Dr Abu Nadir at 0215 today following a series of open meetings held by the Lebanese Forces Command Council at its permanent headquarters. These meetings took place within the framework for dealing with the field situation which arose yesterday.

Ja'ja' Urges Nonviolence

NC130814 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0650 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] The situation is completely calm in the areas of Jubayl, Kasrawan, East Beirut, and southern Al-Matn. Movement within these areas is normal except for the closure of schools and the cutting off of the Juniyah-Beirut road in the area of Al-Dubayyah. However, efforts are being made to reopen it. Deployment of security [forces] in the above-mentioned areas should not be a cause for anxiety, especially since Dr Samir Ja'ja' and his allied leaders are insisting, through repeated requests to the combatants, to behave in a civilized and alert manner without violence.

Christian Committees Support Ja'ja'

NC130809 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0745 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] The Christian Action Committees in the south have issued the following statement:

From our Christian south we address a warm greeting to those who made the decision to regain the initiative. The Christian people in the south are patiently waiting for salvation from the north. We have placed all our hopes on the action taken by Dr Samir Ja'ja' and his comrades inside the Phalangist Party and the Lebanese Forces. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

Ja'ja' Receives More Support

NC131006 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in English 0930 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] Political contacts at the highest levels are continuing with the objective of elaborating a practical formula to reflect the independence of Christian decisionmaking. In this framework in B'abda Palace President Amin al-Jumayyil has been having lengthy discussions with the independent Maronite deputies and Maronite Cardinal Patriarch Anthony Khuraysh who arrived at the palace shortly before 1100.

Reports also said complete calm prevails in East Beirut, south Al-Matn, and the Kasrawan and Jubayl Districts.

The Phalangist sections in the Lebanese Forces barracks expressed full loyalty and support to the movement of Dr Samir Ja'ja'. Dr Ja'ja' and his companions have received messages of support from Lebanon and abroad, including the assembly of Christian families of 'Alayh and Al-Shuf, the Movement of Christian Action in the south, the inhabitants of Dayr al-Qamar, the Phalangist sections of Australia and Venezuela, the London branch of the World Maronite Union, and the Assembly of Maronite Priests.

Uprising Called 'Collective Movement'

NC131020 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] Dr Samir Ja'ja' has declared that the uprising [intifidah] led by party leaders is not a movement by a single person, but rather a collective movement expressing the ambitions and hopes of the Christian people. Dr Samir Ja'ja' has thanked those who mention his name in statements of support for the uprising. He stressed that this uprising is being led from a position of responsibility by party leaders within the context of a collective movement, the goal of which is to unify Christian ranks and to save Christian society from the abyss. The uprising stresses that there is no basis for reports about clashes in the eastern areas. The situation is very calm and business is proceeding as normal. The uprising urges the citizens to continue with their work.

Fu'ad Nzdir Wounded

NC131110 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Excerpts] Samir Ja'ja' has proclaimed himself commander of the uprising within the Lebanese Forces and has dismissed Fu'ad Abu Nadir as Lebanese Forces' commander. Ja'ja' issued this announcement before leaving with members of his new command, which includes Nizar Najarian, Elie Hubayqah, and Joe Iddih, for Bashir al-Jumayyil's residence to meet with Solange al-Jumayyil [wife of late Bashir al-Jumayyil] for coordination.

It was learned that evacuees from Dayr al-Ahmar, Bshirri, Dayr al-Qamar, and Al-Damur have declared their affiliation with Ja'ja'. The permanent bureaus of the so-called Lebanese Forces and the military barracks of these forces in East Beirut, western Al-Matn, Kasrawan, and the Jubayl area have declared their affiliation with the Ja'ja' movement.

It was also learned that Fu'ad Abu Nadir, commander of the Phalangist militia, was wounded during an assassination attempt in the Al-Rumayl area. He was attacked under the railroad bridge in Al-Ashrafiyah by gunmen belonging to Samir Ja'ja'. He was taken to Al-Rum Hospital for treatment. The hospital is reportedly besieged now by many gunmen belonging to Abu Nadir. Intensive gunfire is being heard around the hospital. The Israeli enemy radio reported a short while ago that Abu Nadir resigned from the Lebanese Forces Command. It appears that this report is an indirect confirmation that Abu Nadir was wounded. The Ja'ja' militia this morning seized the so-called Radio Free Lebanon and detained its director, Sij'an al-Qazzi, taking him to an unknown place. In Al-Shuf, clashes are taking place between militias led by Joseph Qfaysi and other militias belonging to Charles Zwayn, who supports Ja'ja'. Similar clashes are reported in the Jubayl and Kasrawan areas. Ten personnel carriers are now seen near the Olivetti area, waving pictures of Ja'ja'.

Assassination Attempt Denied

NC131213 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1205 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Communique issued by the Lebanese Forces 5th Branch on 13 March]

[Text] Some radios have reported that Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Fu'ad Abu Nadir was subjected to an assassination attempt. The Fifth Branch completely denies this report and urges the citizens to be calm and to ignore these rumors.

Amal Sources Claim 6 Israelis Killed in Clash

NC121251 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] According to security sources, resistance fighters clashed with an enemy mechanized patrol north of Al-Qasimiyah Bridge at 0900 today The Israeli patrol suffered some casualties during the 15-minute engagement. REUTER, citing Amal sources in the south, reported that the action, dubbed the Al-Zrariyah operation, left six Israeli soldiers dead and four others wounded. One of the Amal movement's fighters was killed.

Mercedes Reportedly Rams Israeli Convoy in Jazzin

NC122037 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 2000 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] In an operation south of Jazzin, a Mercedes rammed an Israeli convoy heading from Jazzin to Marj 'Uyun. The car exploded in the midst of the convoy. Eyewitnesses said that there are many casualties among the convoy's soldiers. They said that Israeli helicopters rushed to the scene to evacuate the injured. The occupation soldiers blocked the roads at the scene of the incident. An Israeli military spokesman confirmed the operation, but claimed that only one soldier was injured.

Israeli Warplanes Raid Palestinian Position

NC131228 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1219 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] Five Israeli warplanes raided a Palestinian position in the Ta'nayil area at 1150. The raid lasted approximately 3 minutes. The planes fired rockets from a high altitude and were immediately confronted by Israeli [as heard] anti-aircraft fire from the areas of (Shtutah), (Jalaylah), Kfar Zabad, 'Anjar, Sa'di, and (Suwayri). Ten minutes before the raid, two Israeli warplanes flew a reconnaissance sortie over the area. It was reported that there are a number of casualties.

Al-Asad Delivers Third Term Inaugural Speech

JN121125 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0931 GMT 12 Mar 85

["Text" of third term inaugural speech by President Hafiz al-Asad at People's Assembly in Damascus; in linkup with Damascus television — live]

[Text] Mr Speaker, Assembly members, esteemed audience: We are celebrating the 22d anniversary of the 8 March revolution in the wake of two prominent events in our country's history: the Eighth Ba'th Party Regional Congress and the 10 February referendum. Each of these two events has its own meaning and importance. As we have already said, the Ba'th Party regional congress constituted an important station in our party's history and our masses' march. In light of this congress' discussions and deliberations and its decisions and recommendations, we define our course for the future and formulate our action programs and implement their provisions in a manner that will enrich our march with constructive work and efficient action whether on the national level or on the pan-Arab level. This will give our march more momentum in order to speed up our progress and entrench our achievements.

As for the 10 February referendum, it embodied the united will and course of our people, and recorded a stand of the most overwhelming consensus that our people's history has experienced. This provides all the areas of our struggle, steadfastness, and confrontation of the enemies with a base characterized by genuineness and firmness on which we will rely in our confident march toward the future that we aspire to. In light of the results of these two events, we will proceed with the March revolution course that we started 22 years ago and have developed through the Corrective Movement. Over the past 14 years, we succeeded in making this revolution march a march that has well-defined dimensions, deep roots, and a strong structure that has enabled it to provide bountiful offerings and plentiful production.

I avail myself of the opportunity of my presence in the People's Assembly to thank the Assembly speaker and members for your unanimous decision on adopting my nomination for a third constitu-tional term. From this esteemed hall I convey my love for, confidence in, and pride in our great people, the builders of the March revolution edifice and the ones who protect it. I also would like to thank our great Arab Ba'th Party, the vanguard of our militant people, the one which initiated our revolution, and the leader of our march. [applause]

I extend my greetings and congratulations to the people and the party rank and file on the occasion of the revolution anniversary. I also greet our brave Armed Forces — the shield and protector of the homeland, the vanguard of our confrontation with the enemy, and the ones that played the major pan-Arab role in fraternal Lebanon. I pray to God to have mercy on our righteous martyrs — the torches of guidance and the examples of honor and manhood on the path of the struggle waged by our nation.

Today, I again express my profound appreciation for the precious confidence given me by the sons of our people on 10 February. I also express my great appreciation for the sentiments of love with which they honored me for several days inside and outside the country. To me, this confidence and their sentiments are not only a source of pride, but also a source of strength which I depend on in every action, stand, and decision. No power on earth is stronger than a people who are united by one will, love of the homeland, and a strong resolution. To every citizen in every part of this beloved homeland, I send my sincere greetings and love and I repeat what I said before: I am from you, for you, and with you all, dear citizens, in every effort for the sake of the elevation of our homeland and the strength of our nation.

Mr Speaker, Assembly members, esteemed audience: It is with great pleasure that I meet with the representatives of the people at the beginning of my third constitutional term and after I have taken the constitutional oath. This is the time to review the previous phase and to look toward future horizons.

In the previous stage, we began by laying down foundations and bases. Early in this stage, we embarked on achieving our people's hopes and aspirations. During the past 14 years, we built a high edifice and exerted fruitful efforts that resulted in many accomplishments. We are continuing our work to reap the fruits that are about to mature and those that require further effort, work, and struggle. We in Syria are enjoying accomplishments rarely achieved in such a short period of time and under such extremely complicated circumstances. These accomplishments covered the various political, social, cultural, economic, and defensive walks of life. Syria has popular democratic institutions that are functioning in the service of the people's aims. There are also local administrative institutions that are playing their role. These institutions have now been established on several levels. The popular organizations and professional unions are playing their role in public life. Syria also has a strong economic base that depends on a leading public sector, as well as on a private sector and a mixed sector.

In this regard, I would like to make clear that in the future we will work to develop the public sector and free it of any impediments so that it will continue to be a public leader. We will also encourage the socialist sector, in which we have made some strides in the previous stage. We will also encourage the private sector and help direct its attention toward production. We will seek to achieve integration among the three sectors, proceeding from the fact that each of them has an important role to play in bolstering the economic base. Syria is also enjoying a strong defense that is equipped with modern and sophisticated weapons placed in the hands of heroes who are ready for sacrifice and martyrdom.

In the field of economic, social, and cultural development, industries were expanded and new industries previously unknown in our country were set up. Many dams were built, most important among which was the Euphrates Dam, which has positively changed the nature of life in an extensive part of the country. Many roads and railroads and several bridges were built to facilitate transportation. The telecommunications network expanded and electricity now lights several rural areas. Great attention was given to expanding and implementing new water projects in towns and rural areas. We extracted from the earth a number of our natural resources, particularly oil, gas, and phosphates.

In the field of oil, light crude has recently been discovered. This is the first time that this type of oil has been discovered in Syria. Although at the moment I cannot talk about the available quantities of this light crude, due to the unavailability of sufficient data, the discovery of this type of oil in two of our oil fields thus far scientifically corroborates the hope that it might be present in other fields and areas. As for gas, it was given special attention in the past. We began to exploit the gas that accompanied the oil extracted from our fields and set up the first establishment for the exploitation of this gas about a year ago. For the first time, we conducted studies and research on the possibility of independent [separate from oil] gas preserves in our country. Studies indicate the presence of gas fields in Syria that contain very encouraging quantities of gas. We are now promoting these studies. In the meantime, we are implementing some investment projects so that we can exploit gas in the operation of some of our industrial establishments. These projects are expected to be completed within the next 2 years.

Regarding phosphates, we have discovered very large quantities of reserves. Although we are currently extracting a limited quantity of phosphates, we must exert efforts to extract larger quantities in the coming stage.

Development was also large and noticeable in the fields of eudcation and culture. The universities were expanded to such an extent that we can say that they turned into new universities. New universities were opened and many hospitals with modern equipment were built. Large sports establishments and various educational institutes were set up. The number of schools and cultural centers has also increased dramatically. Despite the conventional difference between a cultural center and a library, the most important cultural center we set up in Syria is the library we opened recently in the capital. In terms of its construction, equipment, and mission, it is considered one of the best in the world. [applause]

In the meantime, we continued to bolster our defensive capability in terms of men, sophisticated weapons, high-level training, and high morale. We achieved these and other accomplishments during the past years within the framework of a great popular awakening and a solid national unity whose entrenchement and strength have been expressed by our people under all circumstances. Within the framework of this national unity, the Progressive National Front was established. Throughout the past years we sought to develop this Front so that it can play its important role in bolstering national unity and building the homeland. We will seek to further bolster this Front in the coming stage and will give this subject all the attention it deserves. [applause]

The generations which were brought up under the revolution have adopted the principles of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the spiritual values and historical heritage of our Arab nation. Thus the national and pan-Arab personality of these generations has been crystallized. This contributed to the growth of popular awakening, something which gave the march of the revolution a new impact and a new momentum.

Revolution, like life, is a constant struggle and a continuous movement ahead. Neither tolerates stagnation or rest. Therefore, our aspirations are big and what we still have to accomplish is great, although we have already accomplished a great deal. We must promote our work in order to give more than we are giving now. I still say that we can give more than we are now in all fields. Accordingly, and proceeding from our broad view of our national and pan-Arab requirements and our masses' aspirations, we must develop our accomplishments by expanding them and ridding them of deficiencies so that development can come with all its dimensions to satisfy our people's material, cultural, and social needs.

We still need construction in various fields. In the field of agriculture, we must do a great deal. We must implement plans with greater resolve and determination. We must draw up new, ambitious plans because Syria's agricultural capabilities are great. Therefore, we must provide these capabilities with productive conditions and circumstances.

In the field of mining and mineral resources, we have encouraging prospects that we must exploit. In addition to the deposits that we have discovered and begun exploiting, there are others that need to be determined through scientific studies and field work. These studies will continue to determine the extent of these resources and their economic feasibility.

There is a need to establish and expand several basic industries. Therefore, we must continue industrialization and exploitation of mineral resources. There is also a need to expand in other fields, albeit on different levels, such as transportation, communications, housing, health services, cultural affairs, and other fields that I need not enumerate or speak about in detail now.

Brothers, we can now say that the 8 March revolution is entering its 23d year while very healthy, strong, and lofty, thanks to our people. Its record certifies that it has competently stood by its principles and truly fought for its objectives — the objectives of the masses that stemmed from its ranks. Sound principles and strong, solid foundations are important factors that make us face up to the challenges, confident of our ability to continue our march toward its major, sublime objectives with a feeling of confidence and optimism in the future — a feeling that we derive from our great people's spirit and unlimited ability to remain steadfast against the strongest forces of aggression, plotting, and tyranny. This ability was manifested in the historical turning point that we created during the October and Golan war and in crushing the reactionary plotting, confronting the Zionist invasion of Lebanon and foiling its objectives, supporting fraternal Lebanon, and thwarting the Camp David plan and its concomitants and the plots against the Palestine question and Arab destiny. Syria will remain, as we and the masses of the Arab nation want it, the fortress of steadfastnes and the stronghold that defends the nation's issues, future, and destiny. [applause]

Our forces in this country are a strength for our nation. Our steadfastness is for this nation. With this steadfastness we will crush hostile plots, foil enemy plans, and achieve victory for us and the nation. Certain eyes look at our march with hatred and evil, while other eyes look at us with confidence and hope. The eyes of hatred and evil will only get tired and become blind with time and experience. They will die in their hatred. As for the eyes of confidence and hope, they will soon see the dawn of victory

throughout the Arab land. The rancorous will choke to death in their hatred and treachery and the confident will rejoice in their loyalty and sincerity.

We in Syria have taken upon ourselves to be worthy of our nation's trust in us and to fulfill the hopes that the Arab masses pin on our march. This places major national and pan-Arab responsibilities on us. Our responsibilities are enormous, but our morale is high. Our path is long, but we can remove all pitfalls and shorten the way to our objectives.

We are resuming the great work that we had begun. In the future, we shoudl complete what we have begun and accomplish several new achievements. While we are watching and struggling against the Zionist-imperialist conspiracies, we must reject the isolationist trend in the Arab world, which some regimes that are tools of this conspiracy seek to strengthen in order to entrench the separatist trend that the Arab nation is currently experiencing. By this separatist trend, these regimes seek to entrench an ideology to defend this isolationism in order to guarantee the interests and courses of those rulers and their regimes. It is an axiom that this is the best way to guarantee the interests of imperialism and Zionism, and their base, Israel.

I do not believe that we need to argue about this deduction, because the Israeli-Zionist documents and Israel's tangible and clear policy, its clear strategy, and its continuous practices are based on strengthening and entrenching the Arab secessionist state. The Zionist-imperialist policy has moved from a maneuvering position to a direct and clear position in order to attack Arab unity with both words and deeds. We can say that this policy has moved from a defensive to an offensive position. Can you and our Arab masses not see with me how the premeditated Zionist-imperialist propaganda attacks unity and considers it as expansion, annexation, and devouring? Did we not hear them attack Syria and accuse it of having imperialist ambitions? Did we not hear them make statements at high-levels in the United States warning that Syria seeks to establish a greater Syria? It is as if Arab efforts must not be mobilized to prevent the establishment of greater Israel, but to prevent the establishment of greater Syria. They are trying, in the course of time, to confuse Arab unity with the concept of colonialism, if not colonialism itself.

Proceeding from the same premise, Israel has refused and is refusing to meet with a unified Arab delegation at any international conference. The idea of a unified Arab delegation was proposed during the discussions that took place on the Geneva conference concept. Israel rejected this concept strongly at that time, and Al-Sadat accepted Israel's rejection at that time. However, we in Syria had rejected the Israeli rejection. In fact, Israel insisted on destroying all ties between Arab citizens and on foiling pan-Arab and national relations in the one Arab country. Israel does not say the Lebanese resistance or the Lebanese nationalist resistance, but the Shi'ite resistance and the Shi'ite terrorism, while the fact is that the Lebanese nationalist resistance includes Lebanese citizens of various relgious sects. In light of the current secessionist Arab situation, Israel does not talk of us as citizens who are linked with bonds of citizenship in each country. Israel deals with us as regions, sects, factions, and everything that would serve its objectives of dividing Arabs into the smallest possible groups. Moreover, Israel seeks to maintain this secessionist situation in order to be the great state in this region and, consequently, to achieve the Torah state.

We must not play down the importance of the imperialist-Zionist scheme, which wants to detach us from our roots by deleting from our minds the notion of unity and by stripping us of our Arabic garb in order that we forget our Arabism and become obsessed by new ideas so that Zionism, whose basis is Israel, can easily attain its aims in colonizing the largest possible area of the Arab homeland. The reply to this Zionist-imperialist onslaught should take the form of larger, stronger, and more resolute struggle for Arab unity. [applause]

If the imperialist and Zionist forces think that we will yield to their plans and ignore their aims, they will be mistaken. We want Syria to grow larger in order to include the entire Arab homeland. [Applause] We also want Libya to grow larger in order to include the entire Arab homeland. We want Lebanon to grow larger in order to include the entire Arab homeland. We want Jordan to grow larger in order to include the entire Arab homeland. We want Algeria to grow larger in order to include the entire Arab homeland. We want Qatar to grow larger in order to include the entire Arab homeland. We want every Arab country to grow larger in order to include the entire Arab homeland. [applause]

This is our word and we will relentlessly struggle to fulfill it. We are the sons of one family and we must struggle to reunite this Arab family in one entity. We must keep unity, both as a notion and action, above Arab differences. We in the Arab homeland must realize that Arab differences are no obstacle to unity. On the contrary, unity constitutes an immediate radical solution to these differences. We must not link unity that will find a solution to Arab destiny issues in the face of Zionism and imperialism with any Arab difference. Unity is a fateful ideological and strategic issue. We say that Arab unity should not be linked with Arab differences and we have materialized this in practice during the past years. [applause]

As we have previously kept unity above every internal Arab difference regardless of its magnitude, we will continue in the coming stage and throughout the future to separate unity from the Arab reality no matter how bad this reality is. We all remember that in accordance with this belief, we tried in the past to jump over all the barriers of differences at a time when we had severe differences between us and the Iraqi regime. Oil was cut off, borders were closed, and the two countries' embassies were also closed. Nevertheless, I ignored all this and went to Baghdad to propose to the Baghdad rulers of that time the establishment of unity between Syria and Iraq. [applause]

At the time, many of my colleagues in the party command and state officials did not approve my going to Baghdad. Many of our Arab brothers came to Syria and advised me not to go to Baghdad, offering justifications for this piece of advice. I did not take this into consideration because I believe in unity, the most sacred objective. We have to venture and undertake risks and forget personal differences when an opportunity to achieve unity becomes available. [applause]

I would like to add that when I went to Baghdad I was not accorded the welcome that is dictated by relations among countries, not to mention a welcome dicated by Arab values. I was not accorded a good reception during my visit to Baghdad. However, this did not influence my train of thought at the time, nor did it influence my discussions and proposals. I insisted on unity, as some of the officials who are present in this esteemed Assembly recall. I insisted on unity. Whenever they tried during the talks to move to topics other than unity, I used to redirect the talks to its sound course. I insisted on unity in the first, second, and the third meetings until we reached agreement to proceed on the road toward unity. I had no intention of raising this issue here, but in any case, I am only recalling some of the talks and discussions which took place on this issue.

We achieved major strides on the road to unity. We laid bases. We agreed on principles and succeeded in formulating a constitution for the unity. Unity was supposed to have been established shortly after the last session of talks. The constitution of the one state was ready and we reached complete agreement with them. We and they have copies of all this.

We returned to Syria. A few days later, the regime in Baghdad was changed. We were accused of having conspired against them. Several Iraqi leaders were executed on charges that they had conspired with Syria against the Iraqi regime. I and my colleagues in the command were shocked. The shock was great because we were experiencing happy moments. We were on the threshold of a great event and believed that it would be a reply to Al-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem, to Camp David, and to other big challenges the Arab nation was experiencing. While we were in this happy state of mind, we were accused of conspiring against the regime with which we were to establish unity.

We tried to save the boat from sinking. We tried to rise above all the wounds. I sent many delegations and many letters to Baghdad, and I will speak in detail about this at the appropriate time. I did so in an attempt to save the boat in which they were sinking. However, all our attempts were futile because there had been a decision not to establish unity between Syria and Iraq.

They were not satisfied with this. Moreover, they have struck at unity, accused us of hatching plots, and have beaten the Syrian employees at the Syrian Embassy in Baghdad. In our contacts with them, we told them to give us some proof of this conspiracy. We confirmed to them that those who hatch plots against you are at the same time hatching plots against us because we are on our way to becoming one state. What had been said was ridiculous. It called for laughing and crying at the same time. I say crying because the matter was related to a very great issue.

They had said that Syria had a military attache in Baghdad who met with so and so Iraqi leaders. Most of those leaders had been executed. As far as I know, only one of those leaders was not executed. They said that that military attache had given 7,000 dinars to that Iraqi official. You know very well that our brothers in Iraq do not need to take a few dinars from Syria. The Syrian delegation that went to Baghdad, which comprised the foreign minister and the chief of staff at that time, tried to ask them who that military attache was. What was his name, where did he live?

The fact is that for many years we did not have a military attache in Baghdad. They said they did not know that officer and at the same time said that he had lived in Baghdad for many years as a military attache. The Syrian delegation told them: You know that every Army officer in Syria and elsewhere should have a file that contains a photograph of this officer. Let those who had seen that officer go to Syria and check all the officers' files in order to identify that officer. This offer was rejected. We had proposed to them to form a Syrian-Iraqi joint committee to investigate in both Syria and Iraq any suspicion of a conspiracy. They had also rejected this. We had proposed to them to form an Arab committee comprised of non-Syrians and non-Iraqis and to give that committee full authority to reveal the plotters and take the necessary action. They had also rejected that. We had proposed and proposed and they had rejected and rejected. What is most important, is that they had aborted that great unity that we sought to achieve.

Once again, I say that we are not saying something new when we propose that we should struggle for unity removed from Arab differences regardless of how big these differences are, because unity is a fateful issue. [applause]

When we call for unity and demand work and struggle for unity, nobody can undermine the importance of our call or doubt our sincerity because we have put this call into practice more than once. We want unity and we extend a faithful, sincere hand to those who want unity. We will continue our earnest efforts to attain unity untiringly and without despair. Unity is a major revolutionary process and the firmer we establish the foundations of our domestic revolution, the better we can accomplish this revolutionary process.

We will also be more capable of aborting all the schemes hatched against our nation's causes, headed by the Palestine question, which Israel, supported by the United States, is currently trying to liquidate through new methods that were not previously declared as they are today. Therefore, we will promote the revolution's pan-Arab and socialist line, but we must also be fully charged with the revolution's noble values and ethics and must implement its principles. In order to be real revolutionaries we must maintain an elevated mental state. Such a state will enable us to give, sacrifice, and assume responsibility. In such a state there will be no hesitation and negligence and in such a state the sense of responsibility will exist and grow as we are in dire need for it. Unless this sense of responsibility grows as it should grow, we will approach our aspirations very slowly and may be far from attaining these aspirations because the affairs of both life and nation are getting more complicated and because our aspirations are the masses' fixed aspirations.

I am not saying that our sense of responsibility is at its minimum level; I am saying that it is not at the highest level, where it should be. I am not saying that our sense of responsibility is not growing, but I am saying that it is not growing sufficiently in a manner that will guarantee the success of our confrontation of the wickedness of the fierceness of challenges, and the requirements needed to solve our domestic problems. We will do our best in the future to expand our economic, social, agricultural, industrial, and cultural development. The success of our plans in this regard depends largely on the sense of responsibility we possess.

This sense of responsibility should be manifested in our daily behavior wherever we are and in whatever we do. All workers in any ministry, establishment, factory, and school, for instance, should understand their responsibility both collectively and individually. They should not keep lights on when they are not needed. Each of them should turn off these lights in order to save electricity. They should know their responsibility when the water tap is left open when there is no need for that. Each of them should close or repair the tap. They should know their responsibility when they see an office door broken either partially or completely. They should hasten to repair it. They should not say that this is not their job, but someone else's job.

They should know their responsibility when they see that one of them is late for duty or wastes time in outside affairs. They should draw his attention or the attention of a superior to him in order to rectify the situation. They should condemn this negligent person when drawing attention fails. [applause] They should know their responsibility when they see one of them failing to perform his duty and committing one mistake after another without being taken to task by his manager. They should condemn this manager and ask that he also be taken to task.

They must feel responsible when they see someone who commits a dereliction of duty and who makes one mistake after another while his direct supervisor does not take him to account. They must denounce this supervisor and call for his punishment. When we see the street lights lit in broad daylight when there is no need for this — they must be lit at night and not in broad daylight — we must quickly draw the attention of the pertinent department and denounce this department if it fails to respond or when the mistake recurs. When we see that an official — on any level whatsoever — does not fully assume his responsibility and does not act in accordance with the responsibility entrusted to him, we must denounce him everywhere. [applause]

The competent authorities must take this official to task, and if they do not do so, they must be made to account for themselves. [applause] When a car violates traffic regulations, or a citizen violates the public law or traffic regulations, we must draw his attention to the fact that he is committing a violation if he is unaware of it. We must look at him with scorn if we find out that he is aware he is committing a violation, inform the competent party, and denounce him.

I am recalling various incidents from our daily life to stress that our sense of responsibility means our responsibility for all matters, no matter how trivial they may be, that are of interest to our country. These incidents that I have mentioned are not within the prerogatives of one individual, harming him alone; they affect all the people. When he commits a violation, he harms all the people, not only himself. He harms every one of us. Wasted electricity and water, violations of public laws, transgressions against traffic regulations, the breaking of a door in an office, the absence of a teacher from school without valid reason, in addition to many other violations, are considered violations committed against the entire people. [applause]

We are all affected by these violations. It is not permissible for any of us to say that this is not my responsibility, that it is the responsibility of this or that person. The responsibility of that person does not negate my own responsibility, and my responsibility does not negate the responsibility of the other person. Each of us must practice his responsibility within limited boundaries and forms. One of us may be disappointed time after time when he tries to assume his responsibility. He must not give up because ultimately matters will be redressed, and this is our objective.

It goes without saying that when I call for such an exercise or responsibility, I mean that as long as it remains within limits it will be an objective, sincere exercise which proceeds from truth, love of the homeland, and the people's interests.

We will take to task all those who commit mistakes or dereliction of duty in the coming stage. This was decided by the Eighth Ba'th Party Regional Congress. All echelons of authorities must become aware of this decision, implement it, and not allow mistakes to be repeated. They must ensure responsibility and remedy the mistakes the moment they take place on objective bases. [applause]

There is every need to stress the importance of the objective role that the press and the news media should play in this regard. The news media, in particular, should strive for truth and should not remain silent over errors. The news media should also combat error everywhere, and if their role is not the most important one here, it is certainly one of the most important ones. All the institutions should practice their roles. The command of the party in this country should play its role, the People's Assembly should play its role, the Council of Ministers should play its role, the leaderships of the popular organizations should play their role, the leaderships of the vocational trade unions should play their role, and the councils of the local administration should play their role. The country does not need superficial institutions. What it needs is all circles practicing their full responsibilities.

We know that we suffer from problems with living conditions. The Eighth Congress of the Ba'th Party Regional Command studied this issue and made the decisions that have been announced. We will study and discuss all the possibilities that will permit us to reduce the burden of these problems. Moreover, we should not forget that the serious way to remove these problems in the long run lies in increasing production and development in the full meaning of both these words.

We should not forget that we are in a state of war with an enemy who has ambitions on our land and who is trying to completely occupy them — not in Syria alone, but also in the other Arab countries. This enemy is supported by a superpower, the United States, with all means of support, including large-scale economic support. Despite this, the enemy suffers from an acute economic problem. We do not have such a problem.

Gentlemen, we make our future with our people's capability, and with their firm determination we confront the dangers that surround us and the storms of threats that are being directed against us. The dangers that we confront are great, but we are able to resist them. We do not belittle them, but we also do not fear them. We define their source, assess their power, and we confront and defeat them with all our ability. We face a big conspiracy in the arena of the Arab-Israeli conflict and in the

Lebanese arena. That conspiracy is aimed against the Arab homeland — land, people, existence, and destiny. As in Lebanon, we are also facing both Israel and the United States within the framework of the overall conflict.

What is new is the increase of the tool of conspiracy. Israel alone is no longer the only tool of implementation. Other Arab regimes, which have disavowed Arab values and pan-Arab interests, have joined in the conspiracy as a result of their fear, weakness, or treason, and they stretched their hand to the head of agentry to offer their services and to ask it for protection. What we see and hear in some parts of the Arab homeland is clear evidence of this. The most dangerous thing that we see and hear is that frightening move toward capitulation and the liquidation of the Palestine question under the cover of the so-called peace process. Those who are involved in this process believe that peace can be achieved by appeasing the United States and begging Israel. The peace that they are talking about is the Israeli peace that means that Israel will take not only the land, but also the Arabs' land and their capitulation.

The peace they are talking about and chasing is not the Arab peace we are talking about — namely the peace that restores our complete rights and depends on material bases that guarantee its achievement and maintenance. They know where they are going. They know that, as the history of mankind confirms, just peace is not achieved by begging, but by sacrificing. [applause] They know that they are not moving toward the achievement of just peace. They do not possess the material bases that will make the achievement of such peace possible. Of course, peace between two warring enemies is not a matter of wishful thinking, statements, and meetings, whether open or secret. It is a matter of the balance of power. Otherwise, what is achieved in the absence of such a balance is the peace of the stronger side and the capitulation of the weaker side.

If this is the case, and the question is one of balance of power, where do these Arabs who are running after such peace stand? Where do they stand when there is a lack of balance? In short, we can ask them, or they may ask themselves: When will Israel give them the land of Palestine? When they will either be a major obstacle if they decide to fight or achieve peace if they decide to make peace? This is a big delusion with which they have surrounded themselves or with which Washington has surrounded them. They are now trying to spread this delusion among the Arabs by saying that the United States is willing to help achieve peace in this region. Their logic is that the United States is the only one that can put pressure on Israel, and therefore the solution is in its hand. This was Al-Sadat's logic, and this is also their logic now. However, they forget that the United States uses pressure only in the opposite direction — namely, against the Arabs and in the interest of Israel. The United States has never done anything else. In fact, the United States has never said that it will do anything different. All that the United States does is, in the long run, in the interest of what it terms Israeli security.

The United States understands Israeli security to mean Israel's military superiority over all Arabs and giving Israel all the means of power that will enable it to continue expanding on Arab territory or reinforcing such expansion. These people who have involved themselves in this matter forget or pretend to forget that the United States does not make any proposal or present any idea unless the proposal and the idea originate from Israel or serve Israeli interest. The United States has not ceased repeating that it cannot impose peace on anyone. Yet, it is trying by every means to impose surrender on one side through absolute support and unlimited assistance to the other side — Israel.

The U.S. Administration used to always repeat that the atmosphere was not suitable for beginning a new peace process, because the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict were not yet ready to make mutual concessions. Suddenly, we heard something different in the wake of the Amman formula and the announcement of the so- called initiative by the Camp David regime in Egypt. The new talk began after the United States found certain Arab sides that are ready to make concessions, because concessions are forced only on the Arabs. Even this talk which we are hearing from the U.S. Administration is a reserved talk, because the United States is not satisfied with the concessions made by the colluders. It wants more concessions. It wants complete concessions; in other words, it wants complete Arab surrender. This is because it does not consider the concessions that have been given so far as sufficient.

In Amman, they said that they have reached a formula which proposes land in exchange for peace. This is a U.S. novelty and deception. In accordance with this formula, peace and land will be for Israel, and capitulation will be for those who want to make this exchange. Israel wants the land, and it does not care for peace. It wants the land in Palestine in particular, and the West Bank and Gaza. Those who are involved are aware that Israel cannot go beyond giving self-rule for some inhabitants — inhabitants without land — under the Jordanian regime's control over those inhabitants in the areas with an Arab majority.

Those who are involved in the conspiracy are ignoring Israel's share of U.S. foreign aid. They close their eyes to the U.S. stands that are completely biased toward Israel and to the U.S. veto in the Security Council which is only used for Israel's interests. Those who are involved did not ask themselves once: Why does the United States reject the idea of an international conference for peace in the Middle East under UN auspices and with the participation of all parties? Did they not think that this rejection is a trick to keep away the USSR, the friend of the Arabs, so that the United States can impose its hegemony and push the Arabs — or those who agree — to sit down in their weak position with Israel which is strong and supported by the United States? Toward what are those who are involved in the conspiracy — the supporters and followers of Camp David — running, so long as what is presented to them is no more than to sit down with Israel and to recognize it? This is in addition to ignoring the Palestinian people's rights to return, self- determination, and the establishment of the independent Palestinian state.

It is obvious that they are running to appease the United States by submitting to it and to Israel's conditions. They are running after capitulation. Their role, which is drawn up by the United States, is to turn into tools to strike at the fraternal Arabs and to fight the fraternal Arabs who refuse to march within the framework of these U.S.-Zionist schemes. Imagine that a U.S. official said in testimony before the U.S. Congress a few days ago that Egypt is an important force for peace and stability

because it helps to deter Libya. He said that the United States helps Egypt to achieve a balance of power with Syria and Libya. The United States helps Egypt to achieve a balance of power with Syria and Libya, and not with Israel. The Egypt of Camp David accepts and welcomes this role.

A similar thing was said about Jordan in the past. You heard the statements made by U.S. officials. You heard the U.S. secretary of defense saying more than once that they should arm Jordan to confront the Syrian threat. They are not ready at all to give one rifle to any Arab, even if he pretends to be their friend or they say that he is their friend, if this rifle will be aimed at Israel. They are ready to give rifles, guns, planes, and tanks if an Arab party wants to face another Arab party, especially if this Arab does not capitulate and firmly calls for achieving all Arab rights through an honorable militant course. [applause]

However, I tell them without intending to warn or threaten them, but only to draw their attention: Your road is tough, blocked, and fraught with fatal dangers. You are pursuing a course in which you will only achieve self-destruction, because the masses throughout history have never walked along the road of capitulatory defeatists. I tell you advisedly: The seat is uncomfortable and the pain in the end is agonizing. [applause] Peace cannot be achieved through bargaining and begging. In order to mislead the Arab masses, they ask us as you often hear: What is the alternative? A few days ago you heard a news conference in which they asked about the alternative.

We, naturally, answer that the lowly handling of the Palestine question is a disgrace whose responsibility and the results entailed by it now and in the future will be endured by those who are undertaking it. Thus, regardless of the alternative and whether it is present or not, we reject the way the Palestine question is being handled because it is the way the lowly ones deal with things. We are not lowly and will never be so. Let them be lowly, but only as individuals. We will not allow them to drag our Arab nation's masses with them to this lowly swamp and low level. [applause]

This way of dealing with issues is rejected by the Arab masses and the alternative they ask for is available. We are the ones who see the alternative. They have been blinded because they are marching along the road of disgrace, cowardice, and treason. The alternative to this lowly treatment is the militant treatment which takes into consideration past truths and the present awakening, as well as the reflection of all this on the future. If you want a living example of this militant treatment, recall Syria's struggle against French colonialism. [applause] The French stayed in Syria for 25 years, but did not settle down for 1 year. Our people fought them with the simplest things. They fought them with clubs, stones, and primitive rifles of that time. Few, and even very rare, were those Syrian citizens who had rifles. Our people continued to fight and kill the French colonialists until these people repulsed them and forced them to leave our country. There is also Algeria's struggle against French colonialism. [applause]

Vietnam's struggle against the United States is an example. [applause] There is also an obvious Arab example which we are experiencing in southern Lebanon, where there are heroes, heroism, and sacrifices. These are the fedayeen. These are the fedayeen who work against imperialism and Israel. Here I will say that the others about whom we are talking are also fedayeen for the sake of Lebanon and the Arabs and against imperialism and Zionism. The others are fedayeen for the sake of the United States, of Israel, and of treason. [applause] It is the Lebanese nationalist resistance. Have not you seen an evidence in all this?

So, we have an alternative, and we have the proof of the soundness of that alternative. If those who are involved were aware of the facts, they would see that what is taking place in Lebanon's territory is the rule and what they are doing is an exception. The Arabs' course is the course of the Lebanese national resistance, and not the course of Camp David. The weak in this world can never have peace. The fraternal Lebanese people have given the light, and its heroes in the Lebanese national resistance have given a living example and a clear way for liberating the land and achieving liberation from the occupation.

The heroic Lebanese people have carried arms, followed the path of martyrdom, and pledged to make sacrifices and to water the soil with the blood of its sons in order to purify it of occupation. The story of the United States in Lebanon is not different from its story in Palestine. It encouraged the Israeli invasion. It supported it and tried to share the fruits with Israel. It also tried to make Lebanon a victim of occupation and a base for and a protectorate of Israel. After failing to achieve these objectives, the United States began to exert efforts to save Israel from its involvement in Lebanon and from the conflict at the expense of the Lebanese people. But these heroic people are determined to extract their freedom and to liberate their land through struggle and sacrifice. We will continue to support Lebanon and the Lebanese national resistance until the Israeli- occupied Lebanese territory is completely liberated. [applause]

We will remain with our brothers in Lebanon in order to support and assist them in achieving national accord, spreading security in their homeland, and restoring normal life to Lebanon. We will remain with all the Lebanese, without any discrimination, to support them in any action that will enable them to liberate their land from the Israeli occupation, to get rid of Israel's ambitions in Lebanon, and to accelerate the return of normal life. From the People's Assembly, and in the name of the Syrian Arab people, I extend my heartfelt greetings to the heroes of the Lebanese national resistance [applause], to our kinfolk in southern Lebanon who bravely confront the enemy and its fascist, barbaric practices. I also extend greetings to every struggler in beloved Golan [applause] and in dear Palestine, as well as in any part of it that confronts the enemy with any means. I also emphasize to them that we are with them and that we share their crisis, appreciate their heroism, and support them. We are confident that we will all achieve victory.

Brothers, it is indeed saddening that those calling for Arab solidarity are using this as a cover for welcoming back the Egyptian regime which is fettered by the Camp David chains. They forget about solidarity when the matter concerns struggler Lebanon, which is resisting invasion and occupation. Indeed, they call for solidarity when the matter concerns Egypt or Camp David. They also forget solidarity when the matter concerns steadfastness and they raise the slogan of solidarity when the

matter concerns defeatism and captitulation. Our battle is huge and our path is long and rough. The enemies we are facing are also savage. But we have the necessary willpower to face them and defeat them. We are storng through our faith in our cause and our determination to defend our land and future. We are strong through our capabilities and readiness to make sacrifices. We are also strong through our Arab nation and our friends who support our just cause and stand by our side in our struggle to liberate our territory from aggression. Foremost among these friedns is the USSR and the other socialist bloc countries, [applause] as well as the nonaligned states.

Our option, while we are facing the dangers, is the determination to bolster our defense capabilities, achieve a strategic balance with the enemy, and persist in our efforts to achieve the broadest possible Arab solidarity on the basis of resisting imperialism and Zionism. As always, we will stand in the trench of struggle among the forces of liberation and progress. We will support each other and wage a common struggle against the forces of aggression and exploitation in all their forms. We look to the future with hope and optimism. We will fulfill the trust of duty, fight negative manifestations, entrench positive manifestations, build the socialist system that achieves self-sufficiency and justice for the masses, bolster our national unity, enhance the role of the institutions and organizations of our popular democracy, proceed with development programs, strengthen our Armed Forces, fight for Arab unity, and strengthen the ties of friendship and cooperation with all our friends in the world. With all that, we will justify the hope and optimism, and with all that, we can achieve victory. Peace be upon you.

Hafiz Al-Asad Congratulates Gorbachev on Election

JN121903 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad has sent a congratulatory cable to Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev, the new general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, on his election to this post. The following is the text of the cable:

On your election as CPSU general secretary, it is my pleasure to send you heartfelt congratulations, in my own name and on behalf of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Command, wishing you success in your senior responsibilities. On this occasion, I would like to assert to you that relations of cooperation and friendship between our parties, peoples, and governments will be stronger in the interest and mutual benefits of our people and in support of the just issues defended and supported by the Arab Syrian and Soviet peoples. On this occasion, I express my heartfelt wishes of good health and happiness for you and of further successes for the friendly Soviet people.

Khaddam, Al-Kasm Extend Condolences to USSR

JN122101 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Prime Minister 'Abd al-Rauf al-Kasm visited the USSR Embassy in Damascus this evening to offer condolences on the death of USSR President Konstantin Chernenko. The vice president recorded the following message in the condolences book:

The Syrian people have received the news of Comrade Konstantin Chernenko's death with deep pain and grief, due to feelings of appreciation and gratitude for the great deceased and for his role in supporting the struggle of our people against Zionism and imperialism.

Comrade Chernenko will always remain immortal to his friends who knew him as a great world struggler.

The prime minister recorded the following message:

In the name of the Syrian Government and in my name, I extend to the family of the great deceased Konstantin Chernenko and the Government of the USSR my warmest condolences on the death of the great deceased.

We in the Syrian Government are very confident that the good relations between our two governments and peoples will continue in the interest of our two countries and for the sake of progress and peace for all peoples.

The vice president and the prime minister were accompanied by Walid Hamdun and 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah, deputy prime ministers; 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah, deputy prime minister; Yasin Rajjuh, minister of information; Nayif Tani, minister of state for People's Assembly affairs; Mikhayil Naqqul, minister of state; Ra'fat al-Kurdi, minister of communications; Dr Dawud Hidu, minister of state; Antoine Jubran, minister of state for Cabinet affairs; and Hikmat Bayazid, minister of state.

Ba'th L ders Extend Condolences to USSR

JN12204 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Comrades Muhammad Jabir Bajbuj, Sami al-'Attari, Muhammad Khalifah, Fawzi al-Rawi, and Mut'ib Shannan, members of the National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, visited the USSR Embassy in Damascus this evening to extend condolences on the death of Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko.

Comrade Muhammad Jabir Bajbuj recorded a message in the condolences book in the name of the party National Command. The following is text of the message:

In the name of the party National Command, we extend to the friendly CPSU our warmest condolences on the death of Comrade Chernenko, who spent his life defending the cause of right and liberation in the whole world and worked with the CPSU leadership in saving persecuted people from the domination of world imperialism.

The bonds of friendship between our two parties and peoples will continue to deepen, thanks to the instructions of our struggler leader Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. At the same time, we are confident that the Soviet leadership will remain the strong ally of all struggling peoples

and that Soviet power will preserve world peace, because this is its objective

Delegation Leaves for Chernenko Funeral
JN1213135 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Damascus, 12 Mar (SANA) — A party and state delegation left Damascus for Moscow this afternoon to represent the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Syrian Arab Republic at the funeral of Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko. The delegation consists of 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, Ba'th Party assistant secretary general; General Mustafa Talas, deputy prime minister, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, and defense minister; and Faruq al-Shar', minister of foreign affairs.

Air Force Strikes Base Near Barr Ilyas

TA131206 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] Israeli Air Force planes attacked a terrorist base at noon, about 2 km west of Barr Ilyas. All our planes returned safely. The IDF spokesman notes that the pilots reported hits on the targets. The base attacked included a two-storey building and defense trenches, and it housed the Al-Sa'iqah organization headquarters. The base is located about 300 meters south of the Beirut-Damascus highway.

IDF Soldiers Killed, Wounded in South Lebanon

TA121713 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Two IDF soldiers were killed and seven wounded in three separate incidents in Lebanon. Two IDF soldiers were killed and two others wounded near the Al-Qasimiyah bridge. One of the soldiers who was killed is Private Daniyel Moshitz, aged 20, from Jerusalem. The family of the other casualty has been notified. The IDF spokesman reported that light arms fire was directed at an IDF unit near the Al-Qasimiyah bridge. Those who were hit were immediately evacuated to the hospital. A separate announcement will be made regarding the funeral.

Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that the terrorist squad fired from an orchard, at short range, directing its fire at an IDF unit that was searching the area. Four soldiers were wounded by the shooting, and two of them later died of their wounds.

Our correspondent notes that the Al-Qasimiyah bridge is the northernmost point held by the IDF in the western sector, and the IDF soldiers are a target for attacks there — involving RPG's, katyushas, and light arms fire — nearly every evening. Last week a katyusha was directed at the outpost near the Al-Qasimiyah bridge. It missed, and killed a local resident instead. Since the beginning of the war, 637 IDF soldiers have been killed there.

South of Jazzin, a Mercedes exploded near an IDF convoy, and one soldier was wounded. About 2 hours later, a bomb planted at the shoulder of the road was set off, wounding four soldiers. Three of the casualties in those incidents were transferred to the hospital, and two received treatment on the spot.

In Al-Rashidiyah, south of Tyre, a booby-trapped car exploded this afternoon. There were no IDF soldiers in the area at the time. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that searches conducted in the area revealed the remains of a human body. Another vehicle was destroyed as a result of the explosion. But our forces, as we said, suffered no casualties in that incident.

'Serious Incident' Between UNIFIL, ASL Reported

TA120534 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 0430 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Southern Lebanon, 11 Mar (ITIM) — A very serious incident occurred yesterday afternoon between soldiers of the army of southern Lebanon [Asl] and UNIFIL troops. The ITIM correspondent in ther north has learned from senior ASL sources that UNIFIL troops forcefully released two terrorists who had been apprehended by ASL soldiers in the course of pursuit. The terrorist squad was apprehended by the ASL unit in the area of Tibnin, and it is known for a fact that this squad attacked our forces several times in the past. A UNIFIL unit which was on the scene detained the ASL personnel and released the terrorists. It later seized the weapons of the ASL soldiers and escorted the terrorists outside the areas under IDF control.

Senior IDF sources have not yet reacted to this serious incident but it seems that it will affect future relations between the ASL and UNIFIL, and between IDF and UNIFIL personnel.

Defense Sources Want To End UNIFIL Mandate

TA130541 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] Top sources in the defense establishment are against the extension of UNIFIL's mandate in southern Lebanon. They believe that it is inconceivable that UNIFIL and the army of southern Lebanon will be able to operate together in the security zone. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht has learned that these sources have recommended that the government convince the United States to oppose the extension of the mandate, which is due to expire in the middle of next month. Our correspondent notes that the United States finances most of UNIFIL's expenses, which at present stand at approximately $0.5 million per day.

Rabin Addresses Knesset On Lebanon Situation

TA131015 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0904 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Address by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to the Knesset plenum at the opening of the debate on the situation in Lebanon — live]

[Text] Mr Speaker, honored Knesset:

The terrorist attacks against the IDF soldiers in southern Lebanon, particularly by extreme Shi'ite organizations, are causing us to experience painful and difficult days. The Israeli Government suffers and agonizes over the deaths of IDF soldiers in Lebanon. The government shares in the deep grief of the bereaved families and wishes to extend to them its condolences. The government sends its wishes for a speedy recovery to all the wounded soldiers. The government expresses its deep appreciation to the IDF commanders and soldiers stationed in Lebanon to defend our northern border and the settlements and people living along it.

Members of the Knesset, ever since I assumed the post of defense minister I have not seen and do not see any sense in arguing again over the results of the war in Lebanon and entering a debate about the disputed points. I consider it my task to find a solution to Israel's security problems on our northern border and in Lebanon as they are today, in keeping, of course, with the basic

guidelines and resolutions of the national unity government. The government's basic guidelines stipulate one and only one goal to steer government policy: Ensuring the security of our northern border, without the IDF having to permanently remain in Lebanon — that is, to return the IDF home.

The government's first decision was to try to exhaust the chances of arriving at a military agreement with the Lebanese Government over security arrangements, arrangements which would fulfill the government's goal. The Lebanese Government, whose political principles are absolutely subject to Syria, had to secure the latter's consent. To that effect, we went to the talks at Al-Naqurah. We evinced utmost flexibility; we wanted to achieve these security arrangements. In the course of the talks it became clear that Syria is not prepared to allow Lebanon to reach any arrangement whatsoever with Israel that does not spell absolute capitulation to its dictates and a total withdrawal from all Lebanese territories without any security arrangements whatsoever. I am convinced that it was the government's moral and practical obligation to exhaust any trace of a chance of arriving at an arrangement with Lebanon before adopting a unilateral resolution about our security policy.

What is happening in Lebanon these days only elucidates the reason why we had to exhaust every possible chance for a dialogue before anything else.

After it became clear, beyond any shadow of a doubt, that there is no chance of reaching an arrangement in the foreseeable future, the government had to pass a unilateral resolution determining whether to remain in Lebanon on a permanent basis, even for years, in order to protect our northern border, or whether to redeploy along the international border in order to defend our northern border, settlements, and inhabitants, while maintaining a security zone close to our border with Lebanon.

These two basic possibilities were discussed at length and I will not elaborate on this point. On 14 January 1985, the Cabinet passed a decision in principle about an IDF redeployment along our northern border in order to protect it and northern Israel, a redeployment to be carried out in three stages. The first stage has been completed. The IDF is now in the process of carrying out the second phase in the eastern sector, opposite the Syrians and the terrorists stationed in the areas under Syrian control. The duration of this phase was determined by the IDF, first and foremost, based on logistical considerations which take into account the Syrian problem we are facing. I am convinced that the IDF will make the utmost efforts to carry out this phase as soon as possible.

Terror is a fact of life in Lebanon. There is terror among and within the various sects; Lebanese terror is one of the most ruthless in the Middle East. I am talking, first of all, about the Shi'ite terrorist organizations. This form of terrorism is frequently coupled with lunacy whose dimensions are difficult to fathom. The kamikaze terrorist attacks are characteristic of Shi'ite terrorism, as opposed to other forms of terrorism in the world. The Shi'ite leaders who are struggling for a position for the Shi'ite community in the economic and political establishment in Lebanon, have turned the struggle against Israel into a main lever on the road to achieving their objective. In addition, there are struggles for power between extreme and even more extreme elements within the community, such as the Khomeynist Shi'ites who regard the Iranian leader as their spiritual mentor. All the attempts by the Israeli Government for over 1 year to enter into a dialogue with the political Shi'ite organizations were emphatically rejected.

The government's decision on an IDF redeployment along the international border should have made Israel's intention clear to the Lebanese. However, the commitment of the Shi'ites to attack the IDF — and perhaps Israel as well — gathered momenteum. Despite announcements by the Israeli Government that it is not interested in even one centimeter of Lebanese soil, Lebanese terrorism — particularly Shi'ite terrorism — continued and even grew.

Members of the Knesset, I would like to draw your attention to several public statements made by Amal leader Nabih Birri. On 16 August 1984, the Amal leader announced that the attacks on the IDF in southern Lebanon would increase in number. On 9 September 1984, Birri declared in a public speech that he had given orders to 50 Shi'ite youths to be ready to carry out suicide attacks against Israel. On 6 February 1985, Nabih Birri stated that he had prior knowledge of the suicide attack against our forces at Burj al-Shamali, an attack which took place a day earlier. He went on to say that this attack was one in a series of 50 suicide attacks he had announced as early as in September 1984.

I am describing this to you in order to clarify that it was not the IDF's methods of operation in Lebanon which determined the Amal leader's attack plans. The extreme Khomeynist Shi'ite organizations have been operating against Israel according to their own considerations, and we have no choice other than to tackle this terrorism.

Members of the Knesset, under these circumstances and in view of the Israeli Government's objective to protect the security of our northern border without having the IDF remain in Lebanon on a permanent basis, there is no choice other than to make it clear to all the Lebanese elements — first and foremost to the Shi'ite terrorist organizations — that there are only two alternatives to relations between them and us: First, we would like to have peaceful coexistence on both sides of the international border upon the completion of the IDF's deployment along it. Second, if terrorism continues we will have to react very firmly, using all the measures at our disposal. I am making this crystal clear: We will not tolerate unilateral attacks against us.

Members of the Knesset, the IDF will protect its forces until the last Israeli soldier leaves Lebanon. We will go about this in every possible way we deem right, according to conditions and circumstances. We will maintain the IDF's norms of combat, even under these difficult conditions. Tackling terrorism through military means alone is very difficult and complicated, and entails hardships and pain.

Nevertheless, I wish to declare: Extreme Shi'ite terrorism will not determine Israel's security policy. The Israeli Government is determined to protect our northern border, to defend our citizens and soldiers, and to return the IDF home under these conditions.

Opposition Leader Addresses Knesset

TA131153 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] In the wake of the government's statement [delivered by Defense Minister Rabin], all 14 Knesset opposition factions are making statements in the House. The first was by the leader of the left wing MAPAM Party, El'azar Granot. In a speech interrupted several times from the floor, Granot repeated his party's demand for an immediate withdrawal from Lebanon. Details from Neil Sandler:

Granot rejected Prime Minister Peres' recent appeal not to deal with matters that divide the country and that Israel must be united at such a time. He said that back in June 1982, the Alignment gave its support to the Begin government at the outset of the war, and this may well have allowed the war to continue. At the time, Granot said, Labor believed that the war would be taken no farther than 40 km beyond Israel's borders, but this was not to be the case in what, he said, was Israel's first war of choice fought with an absence of national consensus.

Granot repeated MAPAM's demand for a full investigation of the war. Referring to the current situation in Lebanon, Granot noted that the question was not whether terrorism was a fact of life in Lebanon, but rather why this terrorism had become the concern of every family in Israel. He demanded an end to what he termed the unnecessary shedding of Israeli blood in Lebanon. Granot stressed that there was no need for a staged withdrawal and that an immediate pullback could be carried out in a matter of weeks. He accused the government of agreeing to a staged withdrawal in order to appease the Likud. In remarks directed at his former Labor allies, Granot summed up by stating that the Army did not need to remain in Lebanon because of others' mistakes.

Peres on Lebanon, Egypt in Knesset Committee

TA121157 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Report from the Knesset by Ilana Dayan — live]

[Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres heard remarks from both sides of the Political spectrum in his meeting today with the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. From the left wing, particularly from Victor Shemtov of MAPAM, he heard remarks favoring an accelerated and immediate pullout from Lebanon. Peres told Shemtov: Your motives and concern are known. However, a country facing a difficult situation must close ranks; the only considerations are military rather than political in everything pertaining to the withdrawal from Lebanon. There are no guidelines whatsoever providing for staying there even one minute more than necessary, the prime minister said.

Peres went on to tell the members of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee: I suggest we argue about the political issue and I propose that we try and reach maximum agreement on the security question.

Referring to the policy toward the Shi'ites in Lebanon, the prime minister said: There is no heavy-handed policy; there is a policy of protecting the IDF soldiers. Every nation protects its army and every army protects its soldiers — this is an ironclad rule. Involved is a military and logistical question, and it is precisely at these difficult times that we should close ranks and be hard as rock, Shim'on Peres noted.

As for Egypt and Mubarak's initiative, it was Knesset Member Refa'el Etyan who said that the Arabs, as usual, are talking a lot but doing nothing. There is nothing new under the sun, Eytan said. The prime minister retorted: There is nothing new under the sun — well, that may be true when it applies to daily life but not when it applies to events in the Middle East. As for Eytan's generalizations, the prime minister suggested that they should not be taken up. We are sensitive when others generalize about us, and we should be just as sensitive when it comes to generalizing about others, the prime minister told Refa'el Etyan.

Peres on Jordan Agreement, Autonomy

TA121458 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1442 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres has said that the Husayn-'Arafat agreement impressed the world, but the Mubarak initiative and our reaction have diverted attention from it. Our reaction uncovered the conflicts within the Arab world: Jordan is angry with Mubarak who opposes an international conference, and our reaction has led to a positive response in the United States. The prime minister told the members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that every effort will be made to remove Egypt from the cycle of war. Everything should be done to salvage peace with Egypt, regardless of what people in the various parties say.

Regarding negotiations with Jordan, the prime minister said that its chances right now are not clear, but Israel will not ask Jordan to a priori accept the Camp David accords. The prime minister said he suggests autonomy as the first stage of negotiations with Jordan. This was reported by our Knesset correspondent, 'Oded Ben-'Ami.

Peres Remarks on Shi'ite Terrorism

TA130602 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres warns the Shi'ite terrorists will pay heavily for attacks on Israeli soldiers in south Lebanon. Peres was speaking to a Jewish National Fund conference in Jerusalem last night. David Essing reports:

[Begin recording] [Essing] Prime Minister Peres says Israel will find the answer to Shi'ite terrorism. There is always a problem when new tactics are used in warfare. Peres says it takes some time, but the Army will find the answer to the Shi'ite terrorists who are trying to ambush Israeli soldiers.

[Peres — picked up in midsentence] shall put an end to it. Our Army searched in a village that became a center for the Shi'ite activities; in a village which is called Al-Zrariyah, north of the Al-Awwali River, the Al-Awwali Wadi. Thirty-four terrorists

were killed, 40 were captured, over 70 Kalashnikov rifles were found, mines, bombs, RPG's, anti-tank weapons, close to 1,000 pounds of TNT — I mean, all the instrumentation they used in order to try and endanger the movement of our Army. They paid heavily, and if they will continue to do so they will pay more.

[Essing] The prime minister said Israel is not looking for wars or for victories. But, Shim'on Peres warned, nothing will prevent us from defending the security of our country and the lives of our soldiers. [end recording]

Rabin Meets With Soldiers, Comments on Policy

TA121421 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin met this morning in Lebanon with IDF soldiers who returned from the operation in Al-Zrariyah. The defense minister addressed the soldiers after asking them how they felt and after listening to their questions:

[Begin Rabin recording] There is no heavy-handed policy. Our policy is that as long as we stay here and with a view to what will happen when we return to the international border — and we will definitely withdraw to the international border — we will not give the terrorists the freedom to initiate attacks against us. We will reach their villages, surround them, carry out searches, make them worry, and simply tell them: Gentlemen, we do not want to remain here. A government decision has been made but it takes a while to implement it.

They know that we intend to withdraw, but perhaps they are ignoring this or are taking advantage of it for their own purposes in Lebanon. Therefore, we must tell them in no uncertain terms: We want quiet; we are not interested in a war with you. However, we will not tolerate any attack against our soldiers or, at a later stage, against our settlements. It is preferable to live in peace, but if we do not live in peace or if you do not let us live in peace, you too will not enjoy quiet.

Second, regarding the villages across the international line, because we have every intention of implementing the government's decision, we want to make it plain to them that we will reach all those places where there are terrorists and from which attacks are initiatied against us.

Someone has said that this could be done better from the international line. We may just do that upon the completion of the IDF's deployment if quiet is not maintained and if they try to attack our settlements. We want to tell them in advance: No lines or borders can protect those who attack us. So it does not matter where we are deployed. I repeat the points that were raised here. We are getting ready to return to the international border and to defend the settlements from that line, but this will also have to be done with the help of a blockade or by other means, so that if they try to attack us, we will not be like sitting ducks, but rather we will be doing everything possible to retaliate.

This is the situation. It will take time, but ultimately the decision is to return to the international border. You have done a very good job and carried out your work well. I am sure that all those who are thinking about attacking us will remember the operation well. [end recording]

Comments on Phased Withdrawal

TA121625 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is convinced that the Cabinet decision on the implementation of the second phase of the withdrawal and the implementation of the third phase, when it is decided on, is the right way to answer the problems of terrorism in Lebanon. Minister Rabin said this at the end of a visit he made to wounded IDF soldiers who are hospitalized in the Rambam medical center in Haifa. Our correspondent Qobi Mandel bring us some of his remarks:

[Begin Rabin recording] The IDF soldiers' task is to provide the country with defense. After all, a decision in principle on the redeployment along the international border has already been made. It has not influenced the Lebanese to decrease their terrorist attacks. And I am not certain that anyone who thinks the miracle cure of getting out tomorrow will solve the problem is right. I am convinced that what has been decided regarding the redeployment, the implementation of the second phase, and when the decision is made about the implementation of the third phase, that is the right way. That will answer today's problems and the problems in the future faced with terrorism from Lebanon. [end recording]

Comments on Early Pullback

TA121842 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says the Cabinet might consider an early pullback from the Shi'ite areas of south Lebanon. Speaking to reporters at an army base outside Tyre today, Rabin said that it might be possible to carry out part of stage three of the withdrawal parallel to stage two.

Prior to that, Rabin was in Haifa, where he visited soldiers injured in Sunday's car bomb blast. The defense minister said that there is no strong-arm policy being carried out by Israel in south Lebanon, but he said that Israel's policy was not to give the terrorists a free hand in the south. Defense Minister Rabin told reporter Vivien Royston that Israel would have to deal with the problem of terrorism for some time to come.

[Begin Rabin recording] We'll have to cope, I am afraid, for a long time with terrorism that will carry out terrorist acts from Lebanon. We have therefore to bear in mind what we are doing, not only in the short term, but in the long term. The Cabinet took a decision about a new approach, how to defend our northern frontier, or settlements, settlers, in the northern part of the country and to do it in three phases. We are in the process of implementing phase number two. Whenever there will be a decision about phase number three, it will be carried out. I believe the people have to realize we have to fight terrorism, not because we like it, because terrorism declared war on us and this is the problem that we face and no one can ignore this basic fact, that

there is terrorism against Israelis and against Israel from Lebanon. [end recording]

Interviewed on Lebanon Policy

TA122045 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1940 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by military correspondent Moshe Shlonsky and moderator Hayim Yavin on the weekly Second Look program featuring documentary and discussion of Lebanon after the 10 March incident — live in the studio]

[Text] [Yavin] Good evening, Mr Defense Minister.

[Rabin] Good evening.

[Yavin] This evening we again heard reports about new incidents, and soldiers were again killed. Naturally, we are still under the shadow of the booby-trapped car, and it looks as though the danger which our soldiers face grows day by day. I would like to ask you, Mr Rabin, whether, in light of the events of the last few days, you might want to suggest that the Cabinet reconsider the decision on the phased withdrawal, and speed up the withdrawal from southern Lebanon?

[Rabin] Any idea I might have, I will first bring to the Cabinet. I will never announce any proposal here, before I have brought it — as procedure demands — to the Cabinet.

[Yavin] Then let me rephrase the question. Are you entertaining second thoughts about your earlier position on the withdrawal from southern Lebanon?

[Rabin] Basically, no. And let me tell you why: Basically, in Lebanon we are facing two problems: two major, central security problems. The first is terrorism, which exists in substantial dimensions in Lebanon — between the various factions, inside them, and at present also markedly against Israel, too, led by the extremist Shi'ite organizations. This is not to say that they are the only ones who will ultimately act against us. There is a second threat, which is the Syrian threat. The Syrians can be found, in large forces, in Al-Biqa', so that when the IDF's redeployment is planned, an answer that truly guarantees security in the face of these two threats must be given. It is true that right now most of the attacks are being perpetrated by the Shi'ite terrorist organizations, but we must also take into account the Syrians and their lackeys. If, for example, we carry out a hurried withdrawal, I am not sure what kind of impression the Syrians will form of this, or what all their lackeys — thousands of Palestinian terrorists operating under the aegis of Abu Musa [Sa'd Musa Muragha] — will think about this. Thus, the problem becomes much more complex than meets the eye. And I admit, these days are extremely painful, extremely painful; but it is a bitter war against terrorism with the Syrian threat lurking in the background as well.

[Shlonsky] Mr Defense Minister, with your permission: Spirits are down also because of what the IDF is presently experiencing in southern Lebanon. Why, actually, should we not remain on the eastern sector opposite the Syrians and yet withdraw from the western sector?

[Rabin] Because that would create an imbalance in the deployment, and there is no certainty that as a result Shi'ites would not trail behind the Syrians. Furthermore, it would be a good idea to remember what exactly we wanted to achieve, and what we want to achieve in Lebanon today. Is it primarily a deployment opposite the Syrians, or is it quiet life, life in relative quiet for the northern settlements and their inhabitants.

[Shlonsky] But what could guarantee this in another 3, 4, or 6 months — which is the duration planned for the withdrawal from the western sector?

[Rabin] First, I would not like to set times. I believe it will take less than what you mentioned, when talking about the second phase. There are also other alternatives, which I will not dwell upon here. However, let me say one thing: There must be some sort of balanced deployment to face the problems we are encountering in Lebanon. I know that this is very difficult. The IDF soldiers — whom I visited today — are experiencing a very bitter struggle. I visited the Al-Qasimiyah outpost a mere few hours after two of the company's soldiers were killed. Yet at the same time, I believe the soldiers understand that there is no other choice. They know that the Cabinet's decision is to have us redeploy along the international border. No doubt they would like to speed things up, but I also believe that they comprehend the need to fight so that the problem does not dovetail us all the way down to the international border. Even so, there is no absolute guarantee that it will not happen.

[Yavin] Mr Defense Minister, the IDF has engaged in a heavy-handed, or get-tough policy. Just a while ago we noted the outcome of one of these operations in Al-Zrariyah. Everyone who was interviewed by us — journalists, other experts — have said that such operations only result in an escalation vis-a-vis the Shi'ites. So the question is: Are you pleased with the outcome of the so-called heavy-handed policy, or does it truly lead to unnecessary escalation with regard to the Shi'ites?

[Rabin] I do not know who coined the term "heavy-handed." I know that the defense establishment has never used this term. The question we faced upon the advent of the increased number of incidents was: What do we do? Should we only employ a defensive method, or should we try to prevent a sharp escalation in the activity against us? Now, if we take a close look at the television clips you have aired, you must have noticed that not a single child or woman were hurt. Can you imagine what would have happened had even one woman, or one child, been hurt? Can you think of what the Lebanese and all the world's television networks have done? They showed shattered cars, but they failed to report that these cars were loaded with terrorists and explosives, and that when the IDF soldiers hit them, the cars exploded. So the IDF carries out the necessary policy in accordance with the norms of the war code exercised by the IDF. You never saw a woman or a child hurt, and all the cars that were shattered belonged to terrorists, were full of explosives, and when they blew up they were smashed, with their passengers.

[Shlonsky] The feeling sometimes is that the IDF is helpless in the face of the southern Lebanese Shi'ite terrorism, perhaps because of the special norms we abide by. Do you think that the IDF is properly prepared to face Shi'ite terrorism in southern Lebanon?

[Rabin] Look, Shi'ite terrorism is developing. Today we can examine what is happening, not what would have happened had the Cabinet not adopted its resolution to withdraw, or redeploy in stages. It is difficult today to come and say: Who knows what would have happened? After all, the development of Shi'ite terrorism has been going on a bit over a year. On 9 September, Nabih Birri announced the dispatch of 50 kamikaze suicide men into southern Lebanon. On 5 February 1985, upon the explosion of a car bomb in the Tyre area, in Burj al-Shamali, he spoke after the event, assumed responsibility for it, and said: This is the beginning in the series of 50. This is not a static situation; we can examine it only against the background of the present reality. It is a bitter war. No existing terrorist organization in the world — whether in Europe, such as the Red Brigades or the IRA, or the Baader-Meinhof gang, or the Palestinian terrorist organizations — has ever managed to produce a man willing to use himself as a live bomb.

[Rabin] Mr Defense Minister, unfortunately there is only room for one more question. This horrible car bomb was actually aimed at Metulla. This, at least, is according to the reports. And indeed, it struck very near the border fence. How do you envisage our reaction and deployment in the face of this Shi'ite terrorism, once the withdrawal from Lebanon is completed and we are finally back along the international border?

[Rabin] First, I am not sure the booby-trapped car planned to reach Metulla. He did not choose that route.

[Yavin] Still, the problem exists.

[Rabin] It does, and I would like to say — although I would not like to elaborate too much — that the fact that at present the booby-trapped cars are aimed at IDF vehicles proves, to my mind, that they assume that it is more difficult to strike other targets. It is not a coincidence. I believe we must prepare first of all for an absolute sealing off of the international border; secondly, have a security strip — as the chief of staff presented it; and thirdly, employ a clear-cut policy that will tell them that we want quiet to prevail on both sides. This is what we would prefer to see. That is why the Cabinet adopted the resolution it did. But if there is no quiet, we will not tolerate one-sided terrorism. We may again experience a situation like that which prevailed during the war of attrition along the Jordan Rift Valley. We will have no choice, and we will have to guard our northern border. This is the IDF's purpose, and this is what we will do.

Military Source Says IDF Prepared For Withdrawal

TA121844 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] The Israeli Army is prepared for an immediate withdrawal from south Lebanon and is awaiting a Cabinet decision for a final withdrawal. This assessment was given today to defense reporter Tony Gadot by a senior military source.

[Begin Gadot recording] The IDF has already planned the final stage of withdrawal from Lebanon and is prepared to make the final move immediately on receiving the green light from the Cabinet, a senior military source said today. But, despite Sunday's suicide car bomb attack and public opinion calling for an immediate withdrawal, practical and logistic considerations dictate an orderly pullback. The safety of the troops and the security of Israel's northern border are dependent on a planned withdrawal, he said. As the redeployment continues and tons of equipment worth millions of dollars are being dismantled, the preparation of a security infrastructure along the border is going ahead at full speed. The electonic border fence is being repaired and improved by the introduction of new sophisticated equipment. Patrol roads are being widened and resurfaced, and disused emplacements are being re-equipped.

Netanyahu Praises U.S., Attacks French UN Vote

TA130547 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] Binyamin Netanyahu, Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, has expressed deep disappointment over France's support of the decision to denounce Israel in the UN Security Council. According to him, France did not hesitate to use its Army when its soldiers were the victims of Shi'ite terrorism in Lebanon. He also said that the shadow of terrorist threats against the United States and its representatives in Lebanon hung over the UN Security Council debate. However, the United States has proved that it cannot afford to surrender to these threats.

Sharon Calls for Decreasing Dependence on U.S.

TA101821 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Text] This evening the minister of industry met with a delegation from the IMF. Our correspondent Me'ir Einstein reports that at the meeting Minister Sharon said Israel must decrease its dependence on the United States, although this is difficult. In his view, dollarization or a link with another currency should be considered, or the use of dollars permitted.

Kimche Leaves for Africa Conference in Geneva

TA110738 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 11 Mar 85 p 2

[Report by Michael Eylan]

[Text] David Kimche, director general of the Foreign Ministry, left yesterday for a hastily arranged three-day trip to Geneva. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said Kimche was to attend a conference on drought and starvation in Africa. But it is extremely uncommon for the director general of the ministry to be abroad at the same time as the minister, and Yitzhaq Shamir flew to Belgium yesterday.

The conference, to be attended by several African leaders, was organized by UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, and Israel received an invitation to attend "about two weeks ago." The decision on Kimche's trip was made on Friday.

Observers said the conference in Geneva is a good opportunity to meet African leaders, but at the same time it is strange for the trip to have been made final at such short notice.

Kimche, speaking before departure from Ben Gurion Airport, said Israel could offer drought-stricken African countries know-how on arid-zone agriculture.

Kimche To Discuss Soviet Jews

TA110901 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0843 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Text] On the eve of the opening of the Geneva conference between the two superpowers on strategic arms limitations, Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche will confer with the major U.S. representative to the talks, Max Kampelman, to discuss the issue of presenting the problem of Soviet Jewry at the Geneva talks. Kimche told our correspondent Gid'on Remez that he will probably also meet with U.S. Vice President George Bush and will discuss Middle East affairs with him. George Bush and David Kimche arrived in Geneva to take part in a UN emergency conference on the issue of famine in Africa.

Moda'i Returns, Believes U.S. Aid Will Be Given

TA121647 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Excerpt] This evening Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i returned to Israel. Moda'i is convinced that Israel will soon receive some of the additional aid we asked for from the United States. Moda'i said he felt no pressure on his visit to the United States and, despite differences of views, the Americans, in his opinion, were convinced that what is good for the United States may not be suitable for Israel. The finance minister convened a news conference a short time ago. Our correspondent on economic affairs, Ze'ev Hasper, brings us some of his remarks:

[Begin recording] [Hasper] Good evening from the Finance Ministry. The finance minister is beside me. Mr Minister, first of all, welcome back. From your remarks, I gained the impression that you are optimistic about the chance of receiving additional aid from the United States. What do you base this assumption on?

[Moda'i] On a knowledge of the facts.

[Hasper] What are they?

[Moda'i] They are that we have an understanding with the U.S. Administration, that, if it is necessary, and there is such a need, we will, this year or next year, receive special aid, but I would like to emphasize that there is no point in that aid if we do not implement our share of this matter, which is the decisive share. No aid will help without the implementation of our share.

[Hasper] Did you decide on a timetable and scale for the aid to be given?

[Moda'i] We decided on a framework of times, and also a comprehensive scale. We did not decide; it was the administration itself that announced what the comprehensive scale would be, in testifying to a Congressional committee, and that, in fact, is what gave the direction to our deliberations.

[Hasper] From what you have said I understand that the Americans, in fact, are not making the granting of the aid dependent on the implementation of a series of moves which, in your opinion — or in the opinion of the leaders of Israel's economy — are not acceptable to Israel, such as a large devaluation and the cancellation of the linkage system in the economy. Did you feel any U.S. pressure, nevertheless?

[Moda'i] No. I did not feel any pressure. I am not saying they climbed down from their proposals in the two fields you mentioned very happily. It seems to me, however, that we succeeded in convincing them that the first thing, that of cancelling the linkages, cannot be done, not for reasons of no economic need, but from reasons of social and political structures in Israel today and also historically. This is because the matter of linkages did not begin today; it began even before the establishment of the state and it has, from certain aspects, achievements for certain areas of the economy. And we certainly succeeded in explaining to them — that was with slides and facts and figures — that a profound devaluation, under such conditions of linkage, has no significance, and we even showed them that by virtue of a devaluation, our strength decreases and inflation rises.

Egypt's Basyuni on Progress in Bilateral Relations

TA120902 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0605 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Report on interview with Egyptian Charge d'Affaires Muhammad Basyuni by Arab Affairs correspondent Eldad Beck in Basyuni's office in Tel Aviv; date not given — recorded]

[Excerpts] We met Muhammad Basyuni in his spacious office on the second floor of the Egyptian Embassy in Tel Aviv. Some believe that Basyuni, who is substituting for the Egyptian ambassador who was recalled to Cairo following the Sabra and Shatila massacres, will some day be asked to present his credentials to the president as the new Egyptian ambassador. In the meantime and after a long interval, Basyuni has become one of the most active channels between Cairo and Jerusalem, and he is optimistic regarding bilateral ties.

Progress is evident in the relations, Basyuni says. This can be seen in many instances, such as Israel's participation in the Cairo book fair and in the current international trade fair, activity in the sphere of agricultural trade, the exchange of information between the two countries, and the recent diplomatic contacts, including the Beersheba talks which were meant to bring about the implementation of the agreements regarding the stationing of the MFO in the disputed Tabah area.

We asked Basyuni whether progress has been made regarding preparations for a summit meeting between President Mubarak

and Prime Minister Shim'on Peres. There is no doubt that the improved atmosphere and the Israeli Government's decisions are conducive to a meeting between the two leaders, Basyuni said, although he emphasized that the meeting in itself is not a goal; the goal is rather to solve problems on the agenda and the Middle East conflict. Proper preparations for such a meeting would have a positive effect on the possible results of the summit.

What does Egypt consider the desirable political steps following the Husayn-'Arafat agreement which, according to Basyuni, gained Cairo's full support? In reply, he refers in detail to President Mubarak's proposal, saying that all the sides agree to convene in Cairo for direct talks between a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and Israel, with the participation of Egyptian and U.S. representatives as full partners to peace.

Basyuni reacted to the reports of a meeting between the director general of the Prime Minister's Office and a Jordanian minister, saying that these are baseless rumors.

To conclude the interview, we asked Basyuni — who was in Iran on the eve of the Muslim revolution — for his opinion on how Israel should deal with Shi'ite terrorism in southern Lebanon. A decision was made to return to the international border, Basyuni concludes, and in my personal opinion this should be done quickly, through an immediate withdrawal.

Egyptians Ask Visitors To Leave Tabah Area

TA111111 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ In Hebrew 11 Mar 85 p 3

[Report by Eytan Haber]

[Text] The Egyptian authorities have again begun toughening their stand in Tabah, and military sources say that they do not know why the Egyptians change their attitude toward Israel in the region every other day. The *HA'ARETZ* correspondent has learned that two Canadian tourists who were visiting the Wadi Tabah area were detained by the Egyptians, and only after paying 100 Egyptian pounds were they released and sent across the border at Tabah back to Israel yesterday afternoon. Another incident with the Egyptians also occurred 2 days ago. The 25 members of the Vienna Boys Choir who are visiting Elat, accompanied by 10 escorts, sailed on Saturday to Coral Island and encountered an Egyptian patrol boat. The Vienna boys were sailing in a yacht from Elat with the intention of touring Coral Island when, close to the island, an Egyptian patrol boat carrying armed Egyptian soldiers suddenly appeared. The Egyptian boat approached the Israeli yacht, and the soldiers demanded that the Israeli vessel leave the site. The crew tried to protest, but in the end were forced to leave.

Ethiopian Jews Will Not Be Settled in W. Bank

TA121034 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 12 Mar 85 p 1

[Report by Michael Eylan]

[Text] Israel has promised the U.S. that it will not settle newcomers from Ethiopia in the administered territories.

The U.S. recently asked the Israel Government for clarifications of reports that newly arrived Jews from Ethiopia were being settled in the West Bank.

American officials confirmed last night that such a request had been made recently but would not add any details.

The U.S. Government gives Israel $15 million a year through the AID programme for resettlement of Jewish refugees, and will not permit this money to be used in West Bank settlements, to which it is opposed.

Government officials in Jerusalem said last night, in response to a question, that Israel has assured the U.S. that the Ethiopian olim [immigrants] are not being sent to West Bank settlements. The Ethiopian Jews who do live in Qiryat Arba' are not newcomers, the officials said.

Hayim Aharon, head of the Jewish Agency Aliya [Immigration] Department, had declared in a recent interview that Israel will settle the Ethiopian olim wherever it sees fit, including Judaea and Samaria. This, and other statements by Israeli officials, apparently evoked the American request for clarifications.

Peretz Takes Measures Against Black Hebrews

TA121455 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1443 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] The interior minister has instructed that the necessary measures be taken to prevent additional members of the Black Hebrews sect from entering Israel. The minister also ordered perseverance in measures that will force the Black Hebrews already illegally in Israel to leave. At the same time, Minister Peretz noted that at this stage it would be advisable to avoid wide-scale activity directly aimed at many members of the sect. This report was filed by our correspondent Avshalom Ginosar.

Company Wins Hungarian Agriculture Contract

TA111025 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 11 Mar 85 p 2

[Report by Amir Rosenblitt]

[Excerpt] For the first time in the history of trade between Israel and the East European countries, an Israeli company has won an official and public contract with the Hungarian Government to supply agricultural fertilizers. The deal, which was signed at the beginning of the year, amounts to millions of dollars.

"Rotem Fertilizers," a company belonging to the Israel Chemicals conglomerate, is one of the three companies that won a contract, without the services of intermediary companies. The company supplies agricultural fertilizers to other countries in Eastern Europe, such as Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia, but for political reasons, the deals are made through intermediaries and not through public and official tenders. In addition to the Israeli company, an Iraqi and a Romanian company also won contracts in the bids which the Hungarian Government called for at the beginning of the year. It is believed that "Rotem Fertilizers" will share approximately a third of the deal.

HA'ARETZ Commentary on Rabin, Birri Threats

TA081218 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Mar 85 p 11

[Commentary by Ze'ev Schiff: "Rabin's and Birri's Terrorism"]

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Shi'ite leader Nabih Birri exchanged strong threats last week. The Amal leader was enraged by the heavy-handed policy implemented by the IDF against Shi'ite villages in southern Lebanon, and threatened that if this continues, his fighters would hit an Israeli settlement in the Galilee in return for every Shi'ite village that is harmed, something along the lines of "an eye for an eye." A day or two later Yitzhaq Rabin's temper flared and he warned the southern Lebanese Shi'ites by saying: "If there is no quiet, we will engage in activity on a broad scale, and life for you will become unbearable!" The Israeli defense minister's threat was certainly taken seriously because it was made on the very day the mosque at Ma'rakah was blown up, killing important Shi'ite leaders. It does not matter who was responsible for that explosion; in the eyes of the Shi'ites Israel is to blame, not only because of its leaders' statements, but also because a mosque was blown up and this is the act of infidels, and because the Shi'ites are at war with the IDF in southern Lebanon.

The threats by Birri and Rabin run parallel: They both actually hope to achieve the same thing — a situation in which there is a balance of terror between southern Lebanon and the Galilee. Nabih Birri says: Leave the Shi'ite villages alone, and we will not hit Israeli settlements! Rabin says: Unless there is quiet on our side, we will make a lot of trouble for you!

That situation never existed between Israel and the southern Lebanese Palestinians. Before the war, or at least up until the July 1981 cease-fire between Israel and the PLO, the Palestinian organizations wanted to attack Israel from Lebanese territory, regardless of what Israel was doing. What the Shi'ite leader of that sect's largest political organization is now offering is in fact a variant version: They will hit Israeli settlements only if the IDF attacks the Shi'ite villages. This in fact is the opposite of what Israel will want to establish after its withdrawal from Lebanon: If Qiryat Shemona is shelled, its "hostage" — Al-Nabatiyah — will immediately be hit as well.

In such a balance of terror, Israel stands a greater chance of persuading southern Lebanese Shi'ites to prevent Palestinians or Shi'ite extremists arriving from outside that region from taking action against Israeli settlements. The means of persuasion is the IDF's firepower, which is infinitely more effective than terrorism across the border. Although this firepower cannot solve all military problems, it can nevertheless set a heavy price for anyone who initiates attacks on Israeli settlements. Certainly it is more effective than what is being achieved by way of the "heavy-handed" policy for as long as the IDF is still in Lebanon. Its shortcoming lies in the fact that innocent people will be hurt by counter-shellings, but this argument is more persuasive than closing off areas, mass detentions, or other ways of harassing the populace employed by an occupying army. This, of course, is on condition that the IDF truly ceases to be an occupying army.

To some extent we faced a similar dilemma during the war of attrition waged by the Palestinians from Jordanian territory against the Bet She'an and Jordan Rift Valleys. The Jordanians soon found out that if the Palestinians operate against Israeli settlements from their soil, not only would the Al-Ghawr Valley settlements suffer, but the irrigation plants there would go down the drain as well. And indeed, thousands of Jordanian villagers were forced to leave their homes. In Jordan the king can impose his will on the masses through his Army. In Lebanon, the Shi'ites and Amal will have to choose which path to follow to prevent Palestinians and extremist Shi'ite groups from using their territory to strike Israeli settlements, or else turn the south into an uninhabitable area. Once again, tens of thousands of Shi'ites will have to abandon their homes. As a result of the war, many of them were again allowed to return from West Beirut to settle in their old homes in the south. When the IDF reached Al-Nabatiyah in 1982, it discovered approximately 5,000 inhabitants there, while today there are some 50,000 residents living in that town. The village of Al-Khiyam, for example, located near the Israeli border, was a ghost town, while now about 10,000 people live there, most of them Shi'ites. They and others will have to again leave their homes, if the inhabitants of the south permit the extremists in their sect and the Palestinians to harm Israeli settlements.

Shi'ite leaders like Nabih Birri should be interested in such a balance from another point of view as well. The largest Shi'ite concentration in Lebanon can be found in the south. In order for leaders such as Birri to firmly establish themselves, they must maintain permanent and direct contact with the south. Devastation of the area by Israeli fire will shake the Shi'ite leaders' status, since they will be unable to help their colleagues in the region. The chances of defeating Israel in such a struggle are less than nil. The war has relieved the Shi'ites in the south of Palestinian control and military presence. Yet now tremors and a Shi'ite flight from the region might bring back the PLO fighters — with all its attendant results and implications for the local population.

The trouble is that the Shi'ite sect is extremely divided. Although it is the largest sect in Lebanon, there are great divisions among its ranks. The extremists, and particularly those who live outside the south, might oppose a Rabin-Birri formula. But this would be the problem of the Shi'ite leadership and especially of the local population in the southern villages. They should know that the inclination of the IDF to resort to drastic measures against anyone who harms the Galilee settlements will only increase and become greater than ever. Rabin's declaration — that if there is no quiet on our side of the border, the lives of those living on the other side will become unbearable, a living hell — in my opinion expresses what many believe. A lot of people who are called moderate and who want a full withdrawal from Lebanon believe in the method of massive retaliation for the future. Among them are also people who opposed the war in Lebanon and Sharon's moves. The frustration and disappointment from the war will doubtless merely serve to fuel the drastic approach the IDF will take, if Israeli settlements are hit after the withdrawal is completed.

So is there any chance that the Rabin-Birri formula might work? I think the chances are fair. This is not to say that such a balance

would solve the problems of terrorism. In the Israeli-Arab conflict we may yet witness terrorist operations by the desperate even when peace comes. Certainly the problem of terrorism cannot be absolutely wiped out under the current circumstances. Thus, the goal should be to limit and curtail terrorism, realizing that it is not Israel's main security problem. For while the Shi'ites have a lot at stake, and stand to lose a lot if terrorism against Israeli settlements even after the IDF pullback continues, this is not so for the Palestinians. Right now, they have a lot less to lose in Lebanon. The Palestinians are also notorious for their political-military mistakes. In order to score a prestigious short-term achievement in the northern part of the country they may engage in military moves that will bolster Israeli leaders like Ari'el Sharon and Refa'el Eytan and extremist groups which rule out any possibility of reaching any understanding with the Palestinians.

Village Leagues Launch Political Peace Activity

TA121717 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] The Village Leagues in the territories have resumed political activity for a peaceful solution — for the first time in a year. Meeting in Ramallah, they expressed unqualified confidence in King Husayn, and full support for President Mubarak's initiative. Our correspondent Arye Gus notes that the Area Village Leagues at the time froze their political activity, and decided to confine themselves to social and economic activity. Yet now they are demanding that their representatives be included in any delegation that will negotiate peace with Israel.

Further Report

JN121750 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] After a full year of the freezing of the West Bank Village Leagues, the heads of the Village Leagues met at the Ramallah Village League headquarters today. Our colleague Ibrahim Shahid sent the following report from there.

[Begin recording] [Shahid] The heads of five West Bank Village Leagues — namely, Jamil Falah al-'Amlah, Jawdat Sawalihah, Judge Tahsin Mansur, 'Awdah Turaysh, and Riyad al-Khatib, met. Yunis Hamtuli, the sixth head, did not attend the meeting. The five heads met in the Ramallah Village League headquarters and issued a statement which deviated from their normal course of developing their villages. They solidified a political line, calling on the Israeli Government to support it and calling on the Arab authorities to consider them as part of any Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to be formed for holding negotiations on peace initiatives. The statement was read on behalf of the Village League heads by Judge Tahsin Mansur, head of Tulkarm Village League.

[Mansur] First, the Leagues' aim is developmental, but the current circumstances prompted us to move toward a peaceful solution. When we saw our ship sinking, we moved. We say that we are not against anybody, but we will practice our rights and will exert our efforts to achieve them.

Second, we have full confidence in His Majesty King Husayn, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan; in his government; and in the Jordanian people. His majesty is working in the interest of the Palestinians and their cause. We call on him to move in favor of a peaceful solution.

Third, we support President Husni Mubarak's initiative, and we pin great hope on him and on the Egyptian people. We also note such efforts by the late Anwar al-Sadat, who sacrificed his life for the sake of peace. We call on President Mubarak to place his confidence in the Village Leagues in order to pursue the path of peaceful solution.

Fourth, we say that direct unconditional negotiations are the only way to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. Fifth, the Village Leagues are an effective, organized element in the region, and there is every need for them to participate in any delegation formed for negotiations. The people in the occupied territories have a positive role, and the Leagues are the principal factor for peace because they are the side that began a move toward the path of peace. [end recording].

AL-MITHAQ Raps Amman Agreement, Mubarak's Move

JN110724 Jerusalem AL-MITHAQ in Arabic 3 Mar 85 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "The National Move"]

[Text] The current national move in the Arab arena in general and in the Palestinian arena in particular is a natural, or even a necessary one, aimed at confronting the grave developments that have resulted from the Amman agreement and Mubarak's initiative to join the liquidatory solutions in an attempt to subjugate the region and link it to imperialism through liquidating the cause and ending the conflict in the interest of the hostile forces. The Amman agreement and Mubarak's initiative are an attempt to peddle the second part of the Camp David accords which concern the Palestinian people, after the first part concerning Egypt had been peddled in preparation for spreading it in the Arab arena through dealing a blow to liberation movements and national and progressive countries. The agreement and the initiative are also an attempt by the Arab reactionaries and their new ally, the Palestinian rightists, to cover up the failure of the U.S. imperialists and their allies in Lebanon.

In light of this savage onslought against the region, national and progressive forces and countries should take effective action to confront and foil this onslought just as they foiled the onslought that was aimed at drawing Lebanon into the Camp David accords to make it the second Arab country, after the Egyptian regime, to get involved with these accords.

We appreciate the move led by President Nasir Muhammad, and we hope that it will lead to the formation of a broad front or will reactivate the previous framework of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front. In the absence of such a frameowrk, we cannot effectively confront and foil these liquidatory solutions nor ward off the threat posed by them.

ALGERIA

Delegation to Chernenko Funeral Named

LD121337 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and secretary general of the FLN Party, has charged Brother Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the Political Bureau and the official in charge of the Permanent Secretariat of the party's Central Committee to head the delegation representing Algeria at the funeral of the late Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko to be held tomorrow in Moscow.

The delegation includes Colonel larbi Si Laheene, member of the Central Committee and the director of the Political Department of the People's Libration Army; and 'Abbas Dilmi, member of the Central Committee and vice president of the People's National Assembly.

Further Reportage on Visit of Spain's Gonzalez

Holds Talks, Comments

LD121136 Algiers APS in English 1010 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Algiers, 12-3-85 (APS) — The Algero-Spanish political talks started yesterday here at by a tete-a-tete between President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic, F.L.N. Party secretary general and Felipe Gonzalez, president of the Spanish Government. Another series of talks gathering the two delegations, was held later.

Felipe Gonzales, who arrived yesterday here for a 24 hour official visit notably declared to the press: "There is at present (now that the gas litigation is settled down) no obstacle for the development of cooperation between our two countries." He said there is a great complementarity between Algeria and Spain namely in the industrial, alimentary and agricultural fields as well as in the field of construction.

Regarding the political ties, the Spanish official said that his party (the Workers' Socialist Party of Spain, P.S.O.E.) maintains closer relations with the F.L.N. than with any other political organization in northern Africa.

Departure Statement

LD121543 Algiers APS in English 1440 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Algiers, 12-3-85 (APS) — Felipe Gonzalez, president of Spanish Government left Algiers today following an official 24 hour visit in Algeria. The head of the Spanish Government was seen off at the airport by President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic, F.L.N. Party secretary general, as well as by members of Political Bureau and the ambassadors of the two countries.

In a declaration to the press, Felipe Gonzalez expressed his satisfaction with the results of the visit during which he exchanged point of views with President Chadli over the bilateral relations and the regional and the international relations.

Gonzalez further added "We will soon have the honor to receive President Chadli Bendjedid in Spain and that will be an opportunity to deepen and strengthen the bilateral relations." The Spain head of government ended by saying that all the objectives of the visit were met. It is worth recalling that during this visit Felipe Gonzalez had a series of talks with President Chadli Bendjedid and with Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, Political Bureau member, minister of foreign affairs.

Foreign Ministry on King Hassan Press Conference

LD122045 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] The Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman published the following communique this afternoon:

King Hassan II's recent press conference has once more demonstrated clearly Morocco's intransigence regarding a just and definitive solution to the Western Sahara affair. This press conference was essentially a mere restatement of the rigid positions which run counter to the Maghreb people's expectations, Africa's pressing call, and the road mapped out by the international community for a peaceful and long-lasting settlement of the fratricidal conflict which continues in Western Sahara.

And yet the consensus which emerged from the 19th conference of OAU heads of state and governments in the form of Resolution No 104 supplied the framework, ways, and means for a solution. This consensus expressed the impatient waiting and indicated the spirit which should prevail in implementing this solution, noted the communique. Sharing Africa's consenses, the United Nations has reinforced the African settlement plan with universal support, added the communique. The United Nations pledged to lend its authority to the African solution.

Within the logic of these dynamics, which seemed full of promises and good intentions in Africa and particularly in the Maghreb, enormous resources and numerous initiatives were put forward so that Resolution No 104 could at last be brought to life. The Foreign Affairs Ministry communique stresses that in this spirit Algeria resolutely inscribed the efforts she had made and the contacts she had undertaken. Algeria strongly adheres to the African consensus and to the imperatives imposed by the building of a Greater Arab Maghreb. Algeria also has great hopes in Maghreb and African good will to rally Morocco to the collective bosom of responsibilities to give real meaning to a Maghreb summit and furnish it with the means to unite our region.

Serious doubts as to Morocco's availability have already occurred with its intention to commemorate Throne Day in occupied Saharan territory which was offset only by the international community's refusal to associate itself with this violation of international law.

King Hassan's press conference increases doubt and dampens hope and thus clarifies the real responsibilities in continuing the Western Sahara conflict, the obstacles to Maghreb concerted action, and the dampening of African expectation. Peace has not, however, had its last word; neither have the resources needed to ensure peace been exhausted. As long as the national and international reality of the Saharan people is taken care of and as long as a deep conviction lives on in the hearts of all those who place the stability and progress of the Maghreb above all, an era of concord will yet spread over our region. The communique concludes by saying that this deep conviction does indeed move Algeria and nourishes its permament and full availability.

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi Offers Condolences at Soviet Embassy

LD122319 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Excerpt] This evening the brother commander of the revolution visited the Soviet Embassy in Tripoli where he offered his condolences and sympathy on the death of Soviet Chairman Konstantin Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, to the Soviet ambassador and members of his staff.

The brother commander wrote the following in the book of condolences: I record our sincere condolences and sorrow at the death of our friend, the late President Konstantin Chernenko, in the name of all Libyans, to his family and to the friends in the USSR, the government, the party, and the people. We affirm our solidarity and constant friendship with the peoples of the USSR to whom we are bound by joint objectives in the struggle against imperialism, racism, Zionism, and reaction and for the sake of world peace and progress.

Al-Qadhdhafi Asks Iraq, Iran To Stop Shelling

LD130737 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] Tripoli, 13 Mar (JANA) — JANA has learned that the brother leader of the revolution has sent an urgent cable to the president of Iraq, Saddam Husayn, and to Imam Ayatollah Khomeyni,asking to them to stop shelling towns and civilians and spare the Iraqi and Iranian people further tragedies and pain.

Syrian Chief of Staff Arrives in Tripoli 12 Mar

LD121613 Tripoli JANA in English 1504 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada Thani 19, March 12, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — General Hikmat Shehabi, chief of staff of Syrian Arab Armed Forces, arrived midday today in Tripoli on a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

He was welcomed and his accompanying delegation by the secretary of the General People's Committee for Planning and Petroleum and several officers of Libyan Arab Armed Forces and members of Syrian Arab Liaison Bureau in Tripoli.

General Hikmat Shehabi gave a press release to JANA correspondent saying that he was carrying a personal message to the leader of the revolution from Hafiz al-Asad. he praised in his press release the firm relations between the two brotherly countries and their positive progress especially at the nationalist sphere.

Tunisian Economy Minister Concludes Visit

LD111059 Tripoli JANA in English 1742 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada Thani 18, March 11, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Rachid Sfar, member of Political Bureau and minister of national economy in the Tunisian Republic, and accompanying delegation left Tripoli early today ending a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

Cuban Construction Official Departs 11 March

LD121532 Tripoli JANA in English 0923 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada Thani 8, 12 March, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Mr Levi Farah, the Cuban state minister for construction [title as received] and his delegation left Tripoli last night, ending a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

MOROCCO

Prime Minister Leaves for Chernenko Funeral

LD131320 Rabat MAP in English 1204 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] Rabat, March 13 (MAP) — M. Mohamed Karim Lamrani, Moroccan premier, left here Tuesday heading for Moscow where he is to represent King Hassan II at the funeral of the late Konstantin Chernenko, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Soviet Union Communist Party and chairman of the Supreme Presidium of the USSR scheduled for the same day.

The Moroccan delegation that was seen off by the Soviet ambassador to Morocco comprises M. Mohamed Laensar, minister of telecommunications and postal services; M. Rachid Haddaoui, director-adviser to the Moroccan premier, and M. Omar Belkora, director of the Europe Department at the Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Further on King Hassan Press Conference

LD112038 Rabat MAP in English 1218 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Text] Marrakech, March 11 (MAP) — King Hassan II of Morocco held a press conference on Friday evening in Marrakech, during which the monarch answered questions on the Sahara issue, contacts between Morocco and Algeria, Morocco's withdrawal from the OAU, the Arab-African Union treaty with Libya, Morocco's relations with the EEC and other questions. Following is the second part of major questions asked during the conference and the sovereign's answers:

Question: (*LE MONDE* daily) Your majesty has said a moment ago that you intend to call on the United Nations, without forgetting the OAU, to organize a referendum on the Sahara. Could you precisely say within what time limit, and if you personally wish that the referendum be organized before the end of this year which marks the tenth anniversary of the green march.

Answer: As you know, the meandres [as received] of the United Nations are many, procedures there are not particularly simple. In addition to this, one has to take into account the current circumstances. We will do what should be done. How? I cannot tell you, not because I want to hide it from you, but because I do not yet have a clear plan in my mind. We should absolutely not discard the OAU, as I have explained, but who can do more? The least is in the whole. The least is the OAU since it is a regional assembly. The whole is the United Nations since it is a world assembly. We should therefore proceed in such a way to introduce the small ring into the big ring so that both could help carry out this referendum.

Now, to tell you that I wish the referendum to be held the soonest possible would be to repeat a self-evident truth, for everyday that goes by costs us money and costs especially men. If we could hold this referendum right from tomorrow, I will be glad to do it. But if we do not do it, as I said a moment ago, Morocco is comfortable, it is not sitting on a bayonnet, but on a good rocking chair, for it has international right on its side, that of people's inalienable right to decide on their fate. Now if they want it for tomorrow, I am ready. If I were to be told that we shall hold it (the referendum) tomorrow, I will postone my journey to the Sahara.

Question: Federal Republic of Germany [as received] Your Majesty. Why did you postpone your journey to the Saharan provinces and why did you not celebrate the "throne day" in the Sahara?

Answer: You see, the allegiance ceremony is one that lasts about forty five minutes. I have received from the speaker of the Assembly, the House of Representatives, Mr Ahmed Osman [MAP spelling], who is present here, a letter in which the Parliament had decided to hold a special session in El Aaiun. As you know, special sessions in our country are decided either during a ministers' council by decree from the prime minister, or by the absolute majority of the House (of Representatives) on a precise agenda. So which was more useful? To go there for one hour, participate in the ceremony of allegiance and come back, or stay there for a few days, study the problems, go see the soldiers in the front, see the socio-economic achievements and permit the Parliament to meet in El Aaiun just as it could do in any other town in Morocco. I think that all things considered, it was more useful to go there not for the ceremony of allegiance, especially that I would have felt really bad because of the minimum comfort facilities for those who would have wanted to participate.

Question: (Portuguese radio and television network) I would like to ask two questions. The Moroccan Constitution aspires for African unity. Yet some thirty countries in the continent have recognized the SDAR (the self-proclaimed Saharan republic) thus creating division in Africa instead of union. How does Your Majesty explain this fact? The second question: Does Morocco really want to adhere to the EEC?

Answer: If a certain number of African countries have recognized the SDAR it is their business, and I would not like to be in their place unless they had a lot of courage, for one of these days, they will denounce it. To do this, one needs courage, but I believe that when one is honest, one is not afraid of admitting one's mistakes.

But when one thinks that Mexico was the only country to recognize the Spanish Republic until four years before the death of Franco, four years before Franco's death Mexico still recognized the Spanish Republic [as received], well I think that abnormal situations of the kind are current in the world we are living in.

As to your second question, Morocco has actually presented its official candidacy to become a fully fledged member of the Common Market and I should say that when it presented it — I have explained it in my throne speech — it was not driven by economic or financial considerations, for if such was its objective, we would have gotten lost in the jungle of the Common Market's legislation. I thought that it was better to take the political entry for the decision was a political decision, and you will find in my throne speech, the political reasons that I have presented, the geography, the complementarity, the future Maghreb, for I believe in it, the fixed link between Morocco and Spain (across the Strait of Gibraltar) and finally the institutional similiarty of socio-economic options made both by Morocco and its future — thanks to God, its future partners in the Common Market.

Question: (same reporter) The exportation of your main products towards Europe will be affected by the enlargement of the EEC to Spain and Portugal. The adhesion of Morocco seems more economic than political.

Answer: That is not true, madam, you do not understand. Europe no longer has any strategic retreat at the political level. With ever-increasing population, the number of towns will grow and consequently arable lands will grow smaller leaving no room for potatoes, tomatoes and cucumbers. Europe will soon be started, because your social laws are such that people do not work any more and you will need a strategic hinterland to breathe and this hinterland you will find in Morocco much more easily than in Greece, geographically speaking. You will find it and find the gas and the pipeline, the oil of Libya, the gas of Algeria, the bridge to Spain, the pipe coming from Guinea bringing energy to Europe. You will access to it by making of North Africa the point of contact with black Africa loaded with resources and a future full of promise. You no longer have a strategic retreat. Your only retreat is North Africa of which Morocco is the jetty. That is your strategic retreat, your land breathing-space.

Do you know, madam, that Commander Cousteau has conducted research — I have a great deal of respect for this man, he knows so much about seas — his findings are apocalyptic. He wrote and still affirms that all it takes is a big oil-tanker sinking to kill the fish in the Mediterranean for fifteen years and I take the liberty to quote because this quotation is right. So, we are your strategic

retreat. And if you do not want it now, you will come looking for it in fifteen years.

Question: (Kuwaiti daily *AL-SIYASAH*) Your Majesty. Diplomatic sources reported on an attempted coup in Mauritania against President Ould Taya by Algerian officers and soldiers and the arrest of these by the Moroccan Armed Forces while transiting through the Moroccan Sahara. Will the Moroccan Armed Forces (FAR) attack the bases from which SAM missiles have been launched downing a Moroccan aircraft and a German civilian plane, in case the FAR are attacked in the future?

Answer: As to the first question, we do not know about any attempt to overthrow the regime. I do not have the slightest idea. This is the first time I hear about it. You can be assured that Moroccan soldiers did not go to intercept participants in the coup. This information is utterly untrue. It is totally fabricated and rests on no evidence. As to the right of pursuit, the decision is up to the military staff of the Moroccan Royal Armed Forces. And I think it is neither timely nor reassuring for public opinion to give an answer to your question.

Question: (*AL-MUSTIQBAL* magazine) Majesty, if you allow me, I want to switch to another topic, that of of Ceuta and Melilla. In an interview to the Spanish television, you dealt with considerations that could determine the stance of the Soviet Union on the control over the Gibraltar Strait by one single state. Is it direct or indirect Soviet backing to the legitimate right of Morocco to recover the towns of Cueta and Melilla or a pointer to a certain evolution in Moroccan-Soviet relations?

Answer: Your [as received] answer to the Spanish TV was clear and logical. As you know, the Soviet fleet has three passage-ways: the east passage-way on the Siberian coast, the northern one in the North Sea and the Gibraltar Strait to the Atlantic. It is not sensible to believe that the Soviet Union could leave the Mediterranean to the Sixth Fleet, for Spain is a NATO member, and if the oncoming referendum reaffirms this membership, it will put an end to the free movement of the Soviet Southern Fleet. The Soviet Union's fleet will not sail freely since Spain, then a member of the Atlantic alliance, will control the strait. Our analysis is not inspired from the Russians nor does it result from the state of Moroccan-Soviet relations. It is an analysis stemming from my reasoning and pondering over the map.

Question: (Kuwaiti daily *AL-ANBA'*) Majesty, some say that during the latest contacts, Algeria has proposed a kind of autonomy in the Sahara based only on the allegiance of the people of the Sahara to the Alaouite [MAP spelling] throne but endowed with an economic and administrative independence and an external representation. Do you conceive, Majesty, a kind of autonomy in the Sahara in the framework of Moroccan territorial integrity?

Answer: It seems that you are better informed than ourselves about what Algeria would have proposed. Let us suppose that what Algeria has proposed corresponds to what you have alluded to. You cannot speak of a particular organizational framework in the Sahara unless its fate on the level of sovereignty is defined, because, if the answer to the referendum on self-rule confirms the Sahara's attachment to Morocco, it is up to the capital, Rabat, to deal, in all sovereignty, with the Saharans, who are wholly Moroccan.

On the contrary, if the inhabitants of the Sahara refuse, and I am sure this would not happen, their integration in Morocco, there would be therefore no reason to discuss a particular status of the Saharan provinces. So, it seems evident that the referendum on self-rule be a sine qua non condition to any future settlement.

Question: (Saudi daily *AL-YAMAMAH*) Majesty, why, up to now the Sahara issue has not been submitted to the Arab League although all the conflicting parties are Arab and members of the league and although the OAU had stumbled against the problems for two years, to reveal finally that it is unable to settle the conflict?

Answer: We think that it is not necessary to confirm an evidence, for in 1974, during the Rabat summit, the Algerian president had said that his country had no covetousness regarding the Sahara and that it was not at all interested by this territory. Mauritania had afterwards renounced to a part of the Sahara. Now, in international law as well as in private law, Morocco had the right of priority and pre-emption. Mauritania having withdrawn, Morocco naturally took over the territory from it.

Regarding the Arab League, the problem is settled. Causes for divergence are already so numerous within the league, and Morocco, out of respect for this organization and eager to spare and safeguard the organization, did not want to further complicate the situation. Thus, eager as we are to bring as closer as possible the Arab viewpoints on the major and vital cause, the Palestinian issue, we have prefered to avoid the Arab League getting mingled in an affair which is not of the same importance as the Palestinian question. This testifies in any case to our attachment to Arab ideals and our flawless sacrifice for sacred causes of the Arab nation. For the Arab League, the problem you have raised is settled.

Cooperation Agreements Signed With Zaire

LD121356 Rabat MAP in French 1000 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Excerpts] Rabat, 11 Mar (MAP) – Lengema Dulia Yubasa Makanga, Zairian secretary of state for international cooperation, left Rabat during the weekend after leading his country's delegation at a joint Moroccan-Zairian commission meeting.

On Friday, [8 March] Morocco and Zaire signed a merchant marine cooperation agreement. This agreement aims to promote sea transportation with a view to developing commercial exchanges between the two countries. On this occasion, Bensalem Smili, minister for ocean fisheries and the merchant marine, praised the relations uniting the Moroccan and Zairian peoples and stressed that the signing of this agreement is an important step in the development of commercial exchanges between the two countries. Abdelouahed Rahdi, the minister of state in charge of cooperation, and Lengema Dulia Yubasa Makanga then signed the minutes sanctioning the work of the Mixed Moroccan-Zairian Commission.

Rahdi stressed that the signing of the maritime cooperation agreement will give a new dimension to the commercial exchanges and said that experts of the two countries also initialled the agreement between the ZAIRIAN PRESS AGENCY (AZP) and the MAGHREB ARAB PRESS agency (MAP), which will be finally signed in the coming weeks.

At the commercial level, Rahdi added, preparatory work has been sketched out for the signing of several agreements before the end of the first 3 months of 1985.

In the spheres of technical, scientific and cultural cooperation, the minister said that Morocco will make a particular effort to give its support to fraternal Zaire in setting up a school for public administration as well as in matters of administriative reform.

He added that an ambitious program has also been sketched out for cooperation in the areas of housing and national and regional development, energy and mining, local communities and rural development, agriculture, equipment and transportation.

The minister also said that a committee has been set up to carry out a regular evaluation of bilateral cooperation in order to solve any problems which may arise in the execution of these programs.

SUDAN

Military Forces Pledge Support for Numayri

JN111811 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1732 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Text] Khartoum 11 Mar (SUNA) — President of the Republic Ja'far Muhammad Numayri received a cable of support today from Major General Babakr 'Abd al-Rahim, member of the Executive Bureau of the SSU central leadership and secretary of the Regular Forces Committee, for the speech he addressed to the Sudanese people yesterday. The cable stresses the regular forces' support for the leader president and for the revolution, both as a lifestyle and a program; renews allegiance to the leader; and backs all the decisions he made in order to continue the march.

The president of the Republic also received a similar cable from officers, NCO's, and soldiers of the Guard Force, [quwwat al-haras] in which they announced their loyalty and support for the president in defending the gains of the revolution.

Trade Unions Support President

JN111905 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1810 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Text] Khartoum, 11 Mar (SUNA) — The Sudanese Trade Union Federation issued a statement today stressing the federation's firm support for and blessing of the president of the Republic's steps protect the people's gains. The statement also pointed out that the federation has followed the actions of the misled group, which used religion as a cover for its mean objectives.

The statement also affirmed that this group was known throughout history as a terrorist political organization that rejects any form of democracy or dialogue, and as the least likely to act according to the principles of Islam. The statement also appealed to working masses everywhere to confront this misled group.

TUNISIA

Prime Minister Congratulates Gorbachev on Election

LD130037 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Mohamed Mzali, premier and secretary general of the Socialist Dusturi Party, has sent a congratulations cable to Mikhail Gorbachev on the occasion of his election as CPSU general secretary which said: Your election to the position of general secretary of CPSU Central Committee, provides me with a happy occasion to express to you my most sincere congratulations and wishes for success in your lofty task. I am confident that the friendly relations which link the Socialist Dusturi Party with the CPSU will continue to develop in the mutual interest of the fraternal Tunisian and Soviet peoples.

It also gives me pleasure to express to you my trust that your work will contribute to the creation of a climate which will facilitate the development, prosperity and well-being of all the peoples, thanks to the consolidation of world understanding and peace. Please, Mr General Secretary, accept the loftiest expressions of appreciation.

DJIBOUTI

President Offers Condolences, Congratulates Gorbachev

EA130656 Djibouti Domestic Service in Somali 1645 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] President Hasan Gouled Aptidon this morning sent a message of condolence to the Soviet leaders and people following the death of the president, who was also the general secretary of the CPSU, Konstantin Chernenko. The president of the Republic also sent a congratulatory message today to the new general secretary of the CPSU, Mikhail Gorbachev.

Meanwhile, a book of condolence has been opened at the Soviet Embassy in Djibouti. The administrator in the president's office, His Excellency (Jama Umar Duleh), and a parliamentary delegation led by the acting speaker of the national assembly, His Excellency Abdullah (Bakhayla), passed on their condolences to the Soviet ambassador today.

ETHIOPIA

Mengistu Meets PDRY Official, DFLP's Hawatimah

EA121417 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Text] Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, secretary general of the Workers Party of Ethiopia [WPE] Central Committee, PMAC chairman, and commander in chief of the revolutionary Armed Forces, this morning received Comrade Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, YSP [Yemeni Socialist Party] Central Committee member, deputy prime minister, and minister of fish resources of the PDRY, with whom he discussed relations between the two friendly countries and current international issues.

Our comrade revolutionary leader also received today and held talks with Comrade Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], whom he briefed on relations between the popular revolutions of revolutionary Ethiopia and Palestine and on current international issues.

Comrade Hawatimah in particular affirmed to the comrade secretary general his organization's solidarity with the Ethiopian revolution, party, and government and its sincere support for the unity of revolutionary Ethiopia. He also expressed his organization's sincere desire to strengthen relations and friendship with the Ethiopian revolution.

Comrade Ashagre Yigletu, WPE Central Committee member and secretary, was present when the comrade secretary general received and held talks with the two guests.

Government Announces Mourning for Chernenko

EA122323 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] A spokesman of the revolutionary government today announced that with effect from tomorrow, 13 March 1985, the national flag will fly at half-mast for 3 days throughout Ethiopia due to the death of Comrade Konstantin Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the country's Supreme Soviet Presidium.

SOMALIA

President Sends Condolence Message to Moscow

EA121635 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1115 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Mohamed Siad Barre, secretary general of the SRSP, today sent a message of condolence to the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee on the death of the former general secretary of the CPSU and president of the Soviet Union who died on 10 March. Siad's message is as follows:

On behalf of the SRSP, the government, and on my own behalf, I send you, the CPSU Central Committee, the Soviet people, and the family of the late Soviet president a message of condolence.

Mohamed Siad Barre today also congrtulated the new CPSU general secretary, Gorbachev, on his election.

Signs Condolence Book

EA121638 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1116 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] SDR [Somali Democratic Republic] President Mohamed Siad Barre, accompanied by members of the SRSP Central Committee Political Committee today signed the book of condolence at the Soviet Embassy in Mogadishu. The signing of the condolence book is due to the death of the Soviet president, Konstantin Chernenko. The president and the Political Committee members were received by the Soviet ambassador and the staff of the Soviet Embassy in Mogadishu. Chairmen of bureaus, ministers, and members of the Central Committee and National People's Assembly also signed the condolence book today.

TANZANIA

Nyerere Sends Condolences to Gorbachev

EA130652 Dar es Salaam External Service in English 1600 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Dar es Salaam — The party chairman, Mwalimu Nyerere, has sent a message of condolence to the new Soviet Communist Party general secretary, Ndugu Mikhail Gorbachev, following the death of the Soviet leader, Ndugu Konstantin Chernenko. Ndugu Chernenko, who died last Sunday, was both general secretary of the Communist Party and president of the Soviet Union.

In his message, Mwalimu said Tanzania is confident that the Soviet people would overcome their sad loss under the new leadership. He expressed hope that the Soviet Union would continue to fight for the growth of international harmony and increase cooperation in dealing with many political and economic problems of the world.

The party chairman said that the African people, particularly those in Tanzania, looked forward to continued Soviet cooperation in the struggle for economic survival and development.

Mwalimu further said that Tanzania was confident of Moscow's continued support for the political liberation struggle in Namibia and South Africa. He paid tribute to the late Chernenko who he said was a (?firm) friend of the continued liberation struggle in southern Africa.

[Zanzibar Domestic Service in Swahili at 1600 GMT on 12 March reports that Tanzania's delegation to Chernenko's funeral will be headed by the Chama Cha Mapinduzi Party secretary general, Rashid Kawawa]

UGANDA

Obote Sends Condolences on Chernenko's Death

EA121413 Kampala Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Excerpts] The new Soviet leader Mr Gorbachev referred to the dangers facing mankind and said the Soviet Union wants an end to the arms race. He was speaking a few hours after being elected general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party in succession to President Konstantin Chernenko, who died on Sunday.

President Milton Obote has sent a message of condolences to the Soviet people at the sad death of President Chernenko, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

The president said that the government and the people of Uganda share this loss with the people of the USSR. During the time of President Chernenko, he said, Soviet-Ugandan relations witnessed tremendous advance in the economic, scientific, social, and cultural fields to the mutual benefit of both countries.

Uganda will send a delegation to the burial; meanwhile, the flag will fly at half mast until the burial of the late president.

Muwanga Leaves for Funeral

LD121619 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Summary] Vice President and Minister of Defense Paulo Muwanga has left for Moscow heading a Ugandan delegation to the funeral of Soviet leader Chernenko, who died last Sunday. The funeral will take place tomorrow.

Prime Minister Meets With UK's Rifkind

EA121158 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Text] The British minister of state for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Mr Malcolm Rifkind, now in Uganda for talks with Ugandan leaders, has expressed the desire of the British Government to strengthen cooperation and assistance to Ugandan Government and people. Mr Rifkind reaffirmed this during a meeting with Prime Minister Otema Alimadi and other cabinet ministers at the international conference center in Kampala, at the start of a 2-day official visit to the country.

The prime minister briefed Mr Rifkind on the strides the Uganda Government has made in rehabilitating the economy and improving security in the country. Thanking the British Government for the assistance it has rendered to Uganda, Mr Otema Alimadi reaffirmed that the government is making steady and firm progress in solving the numerous problems caused by the regime of murder and terror. He said it was the efforts of the people of Uganda, coupled with international assistance, which had led to the progress. The prime minister further briefed the British minister on the progress of resettling and helping the displaced people in the Luwero triangle. He also told him of the peace and tranquillity prevailing in the West Nile region, which Mr Alimadi recently toured extensively.

On agriculture, Mr Rifkind was told that it was picking up, first with tea and with cotton improving. He was also told of the government's policy of diversification of agriculture, which has resulted into crops like maize being exported.

The British minister later visited Luwero, where he had talks with the district commissioner, Mr Nathan Kalema, the commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel Gole, and other officials. Mr Rifkind was told that the area was returning to normal and that people were steadily settling down. Minister Rifkind also visited Luwero children's reception center at (Kibuyu) transit center, where the displaced are checked before being settled.

He was accompanied by the ministers of state for foreign affairs, Dr Peter Owiny; of state for defence, Mr Peter Otai; of state in the prime minister's office, Mr Edward Rurangaranga; the British high commissioner to Uganda, Mr Colin McLean; the Ugandan High Commissioner to Britain, Mr Shafiq Arain; and to India, Mr Singh.

Mr Rifkind is expected to hold talks with President Obote and Vice President Paulo Muwanga before he ends his tour.

CAMEROON

Biya Condolence Message on Chernenko's Death

AB121315 Yaounde Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Condolence message from President Paul Biya to the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet in Moscow on the death of Konstantin Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU and chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet — date of message not given]

[Text] I have learned with deep regret the news of the death of Mr Konstantin Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU and chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet. During the time he spent at the head of his country, this great statesman was able to work for the consolidation of international peace and for the development of more harmonious and friendly relations of fruitful cooperation between our two countries.

On this sad occasion, I beseech you to accept and transmit to the family of the distinguished deceased, the government, and people of the USSR the sincere condolences of the Cameroonian Government and people to which I add my sentiments of deep sympathy. Please, accept the assurances of my high consideration.

[Signed] Paul Biya, President of the Republic of Cameroon

Delegation Leaves for Funeral

AB121441 Yaounde Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Excerpt] The Cameroonian delegation to the funeral of Mr Konstantin Chernenko, who died on 10 March 1985, left Yaounde yesterday for Moscow. The delegation is led by Mr Youssoufa Daouda, minister of state in charge of planning and regional development, and comprising Mr Jean-Marie Hapy Chanko, director of the Europe, America, and Australia Division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Mr Youssoufa Daouda will be the official representative of the head of state, President Paul Biya, at the funeral.

CHAD

Penne on Efforts To Hold Reconciliation Summit

AB101444 Paris AFP in French 1437 GMT 8 Mar 85

[Text] Libreville, 8 Mar (AFP) — France is now doing everything possible, in conjunction with some African countries, to organize in Brazzaville (Congo) a "summit" on Chad soon in which President Hissein Habre and his opponents will take part, Guy Penne, the adviser to French President Francois Mitterrand on African affairs, stated in Libreville on Friday.

In an interview with AFP, Guy Penne, who has just completed a 3-day visit to Libreville, indicated that French, Gabonese, and Congolese authorities had made repeated moves to favor the holding of a roundtable conference between the major protagonists in the chadian conflict.

During his visit to the Gabonese capital, the French adviser met with Colonel Wadal Abdelkader Kamougue, deputy chairman of the Transitional National Union Government [GUNT] headed by Goukouni Oueddei and politically and militarily supported by Libya. Some time before, Mr Penne had already received in Paris Col Kamougue, who claimed to represent the majority of those in the south and opposed to the Ndjamena regime.

He had also held talks in the French capital with another leader from the south, Mr Ngarnayal Mbailembana, chairman of the "standing committee" (based in Brazzaville). Mr Mbailembana, who claims to speak in the name of the "majority of the commandos" from the south in rebellion against Hissein Habre, poses as a rival of Col Kamougue.

Guy Penne also said that he had recently discussed the situation in Chad with a representative of the Ndjamena government, Dr Abba Sidick, minister of national education.

"I am ready," he said, "to meet anywhere Chadian nationals likely to play a role in a process which would lead to national reconciliation in Chad."

The French adviser, however, stressed the need for the African countries "directly or indirectly concerned" by the Chadian conflict, to create "by themselves," in the final analysis, the conditions "for a political settlement" of the conflict. France can provide advice, exercise its influence on the persons involved, but it cannot and will never substitute itself for Africa to reach a final solution, he pointed out.

Mr Penne then expressed satisfaction with the efforts made by the Gabonese head of state, Omar Bongo, to support his Congolese counterpart, Denis Sassou-Nguesso, in his efforts to hold a new conference on Chad before the forthcoming OAU summit scheduled for July in Addis Ababa.

Congo, it is recalled, was officially mandated by the OAU to try to settle the Chadian problem. The leaders of this country, who have good relations with Libya and harbor many opponents to President Hissein Habre, last October organized a conference on Chad "at the experts level" in Brazzaville. But the conference, which brought together some 120 persons and about 10 delegations, failed. "We don't want to repeat the mistakes of the past," a top Congolese official recently stated in Brazzaville. "This time," he added, "we want to organize a conference in which Mr Habre and his political enemies will take part."

Congo, it was learned from an authoritative source, sent many missions abroad over the past weeks, notably to Tripoli to "probe" the Chadian opposition's intentions "in the face of this prospect."

Hissein Habre will "probably" accept to go to Brazzaville, the same source pointed out.

However, the participation of Goukouni Oueddei, and especially that of Acheik Ibn Oumar — leader of the Revolutionary Democratic Council, one of the major GUNT factions who is reportedly imprisoned in Libya since November 1984 — is far from certain, according to an authoritative source.

The south of Chad, which has the main natural and financial resources of the country, hopes, for its part, to present a "united front" in order to negotiate "from a position of strength" with Hissein Habre. Yet, many uncertainties remain: old rivalries are still alive among political and military leaders from the southern province of the country. France, Gabon, and the Congo, it is said in Libreville, are striving to eliminate those antagonisms and to encourage alliances within the factions hostile to Mr Habre's regime in order to bring together only three major sides around the negotiating table, that is the Ndjamena government, the GUNT, and the south.

CONGO

President Cites U.S. 'Aggression' in Latin America

AB121840 Paris AFP in French 1639 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Text] Brazzaville, 11 Mar (AFP) — Denis Sassou-Nguesso, Congolese head of state, who Sunday chaired the opening ceremony of a symposium organized by the Revolutionary Union of Congolese Women, reasserted his country's solidarity with the Palestinian, Saharan, Namibian, South African, and Latin American peoples.

In a speech delivered before members of the Political Bureau of the Congolese Labor Party (PCT, the sole party), members of government and the diplomatic corps accredited to Brazzaville (with the exception of the U.S. ambassador), the head of state said that in Latin America "women have, with arms in hand, gained considerable experience in the struggle against the aggression and the domination of American imperialism."

The symposium of the Revolutionary Union of Congolese Women, which was organized on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the union on the theme, "The Women's Contribution to the National Liberation Struggle," is being attended by women from 10 socialist African countries and from the French and Italian Communist Parties. It is expected to end on Tuesday.

RWANDA

President Sends Condolences on Chernenko's Death

EA121614 Kigali Domestic Service in French 1115 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Condolence message from President General Juvenal Habyarimana to Vasiliy Vasilevich Kuznetsov, first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet, following the death of Konstantin Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU and chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet — date of message not given]

I learned with deep consternation of the unexpected death of His Excellency Comrade Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko, which occurred on 10 March. On this painful occasion, I extend to you my most sincere condolences, which I also offer on behalf of the government and the Rwandan people rallied together in the Rwandan party. In Comrade Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko the Soviet Union has lost an eminent head of state and a gallant advocate for peace and understanding between nations. I share with you, the CPSU, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and all the friendly people of the USSR, the sadness that you feel at this tragic time. I request that you convey to the bereaved family the fact that I join them in their deep distress.

Very high and friendly regards.

ZAIRE

Mobutu Sends Condolence Message to USSR

AB121532 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French 1130 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Condolence message from President Mobutu Sese Seko to Vasiliy Kuznetsov, first deputy chairman of the Presidium of USSR Supreme Soviet, following death of Konstantin Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU and chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet — date of message not given]

[Text] Mr First Deputy Chairman, I have just learned with deep regret of the death of His Excellency Mr Konstantin Chernenko, chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet. In the name of all the Zairian people gathered within our party, the MPR, and in my own name, I express our heartfelt sympathy to the Soviet people and to the family of the distinguished departed. May God grant him eternal rest. Highest regards.

Signed, Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko Kuku Ngbendu Wa Za Banga, founding Chairman of the MPR and President of the Republic of Zaire

Mobutu Takes Over Justice Department, Dismisses Judges
AB121545 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French 1130 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Excerpt] The commission in charge of inspecting all the judicial apparatus of our country, which was set up by the founding chairman of the MPR and president of the Republic, began work immediately. It held its first meeting yesterday. The judicial apparatus now has a very large backlog.

It was therefore necessary to start work immediately. This commission was set up only Saturday, that is, barely 4 days ago. This was on the personal initiative of Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko. This was quite normal because the head of state is the country's supreme judge. Moreover, the head of state has been personally in charge of the Department of Justice since the recent reorganization of the structures of all the party organs. The president's concern is to (?reform) our justice and make it more credible. We need not recall that Zaire is a country of the rule of law. In order to achieve this objective, the country's supreme judge — (?who is now also) the new state commissioner for justice — decided to restore order within the department.

This was not long in coming: The head of state started by making a clean sweep within the judiciary. This happened last Saturday, when many judges scattered throughout the country were dismissed outright.

Subversives Attempt To Disturb Public Order
AB121925 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1015 GMT 12 Mar 85

[AZAP commentary: "Precious Achievements"]

[Text] Kinshasa, 12 Mar (AZAP) — The Executive Council, following its weekly meeting, informed the nation on Friday of the hopeless attempt by three subversives to disturb public order. Fortunately enough and with the help of MPR militants, their venture was nipped in the bud and absolute calm now prevails over the national territory.

This rather marginal event has already been forgotten. The rapidity and efficiency of the reactions of the militants of our party state in isolating these unpatriotic ones reveals the extent of the political work done by the MPR to sharpen the conscience of our people.

Strengthened by the lack of security of persons and property, disorder, anarchy, and liquidation of state authority suffered under the First Republic, the militants under the leadership of the founding chairman cannot, under any circumstance, allow the peace and tranquillity they have so dearly won to be disturbed in any way whatsoever. These achievements, the most precious of all, the nation intends to preserve and they cannot be conceded. Our people do not have a short memory and will not forget all that they have suffered for 5 years because of the misguided ambitions of political maneuverers.

The main task facing MPR militants now is the country's economic recovery. This demands that Zairians be mobilized in discipline, work, and peace. The effects of the international economic crisis are particularly bad for the Third World, and Zaire has adopted a rigorous program in order counter the bad effects. With the help of friendly countries and international organizations, the first results of the efforts of the Zairian people are visible and a good number of knowledgeable and impartial observers do not hide their admiration for this achievement.

At a time when the efforts at putting the economic machinery on the rails has begun to bear fruit, it is not reasonable for us to leave ourselves to be distracted by the irresponsible acts of bitter people who are clearly an epoch late.

The people of Zaire have shown these past few years that they are courageous and they know how to discipline themselves and to persevere in their efforts. These are the qualities that guarantee their future and given them the certitude that nothing can turn them away from the path they have freely chosen for themselves.

BENIN

Kerekou Sends Condolences on Chernenko's Death

AB122200 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Condolence message from President Mathieu Kerekou to CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev on the death of Konstantin Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU and chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, sent on 12 March — read by announcer]

[Text] To Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU, and to the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet. It was with great consternation and deep sorrow that the Beninese people, the People's Revolutionary Party of Benin [PRPB], the National Executive Council, and myself learned of the death of Comrade Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko, general secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU, chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet. The death of Comrade Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko, worthy (?and illustrious) son of the Soviet people, a remarkable and intrepid militant of the world communist movement, strong partisan of peace, represents a great loss not only for the Soviet people but also for all progressive people of the world, in particular those of the socialist community. We respectfully bow to the memory of Comrade Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko and on behalf of the Beninese people, the Central Committee of the PRPB, the National Executive Council, and on my own behalf, I would like to express my heartfelt condolences to the heroic people of the USSR, to their party, and to their government, as well as to the family of the illustrious deceased. Please accept our highest regards.

[Signed] Mathieu Kerekou

Period of Mourning Decreed

AB122150 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Statement issued following the extraordinary meeting of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the People's Revolutionary Party of Benin on Tuesday, 12 March 1985, in Cotonou]

[Text] Following the announcement on Monday, 11 March 1985, by the Central Committee of the CPSU, the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and the USSR Council of Ministers of the death of Comrade Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU, chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the PRPB [People's Revolutionary Party of Benin] met today, Tuesday, 12 March 1985, in an extraordinary session under the chairmanship of our great comrade-in-struggle, Mathieu Kerekou.

At the opening of the meeting, the Political Bureau observed a 1-minute period of silence in memory of the illustrious deceased. To demonstrate the compassion and the sympathy of our people, their vanguard party — the PRPB — their Revolutionary National Assembly, and their National Executive Council, to the friendly people of the USSR, to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, and to the USSR Council of Ministers, the Political Bureau decided the following:

1. A 24-hour period of national mourning will be observed beginning Wednesday, 13 March 1985. During the national mourning period, flags will fly at half mast throughout the national territory.

2. A solemn homage will be officially organized in memory of Comrade Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU, chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

The Political Bureau calls on all militants of the Beninese revolution to mourn with the friendly people of the USSR.

Ready for the revolution; the struggle continues.

Issued in Cotonou on 12 March 1985.

[Signed] The Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the PRPB

BURKINA

Council of Ministers Communique on Chernenko's Death

AB121735 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 0630 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Communique following extraordinary meeting of the Council of Ministers in Ouagadougou on the death of Konstantin Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU and chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet; issued on 11 March — read by Ouattamou Lamien, minister of information and culture]

[Text] Comrade militants of the Democratic and Popular Revolution, a great friend of the Burkinabe people is no more. Since his accession to the leadership of the USSR about 1 year ago, Konstantin Chernenko never stopped trying to bring the two peoples of the Soviet Union and Burkina Faso closer together each day. The fruits of these efforts are evidenced by the ministerial delegation's visit to Moscow last (?summer) and the upcoming visit that the comrade chairman of the National Council of the Revolution [CNR] and president of the Faso will pay to the country of (?Lenin), the country of great works.

A few months ago, a latent disease began to prey upon the health of this humanist, a great freedom fighter and an eager defender of oppressed people fighting for dignity, honor, and survival. It is this man who is no more.

On the announcement of this sudden disappearance [as heard], the Council of Ministers of the revolutionary government met in an extraordinary session from 1800 to 2015 GMT to examine the extent to which this death has affected the revolutionary world in general and the progressive developing world in particular. On the one hand, the council concluded that such a man, who devoted

his entire life to the cause of universal socialism, will be given a worthy successor, and on the other hand, concrete measures have been taken:

First, for 3 days, that is, from 12 to 14 March 1985, flags will fly at half mast to express the Burkinabe people's affliction in the face of this heavy loss. Second, 13 March 1985 will be observed as a national day of mourning throughout the Burkinabe national territory and in our embassies. Third, on 12 March 1985, a government delegation led by the comrade chairman of the CNR and of the Faso will sign the book of condolence opened at the USSR Embassy in Burkina Faso. Fourth, in all our provinces and particularly in the city of Ouagadougou, vigils will be organized in memory of the distinguished departed.

Comrade militants of the Democratic and Popular Revolution, let us pay homage worthy of the memory of the great defender of peace, Comrade Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union.

The fatherland or death, we shall win!

GHANA

10-Day Military Exercise Planned With Burkina

AB121437 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] A 10-day military exercise codenamed "Exercise Team Work 1985" begins in the Akosombo area tomorrow. The exercise, which will involve all the phases of war, will be carried out by an Armed Forces task force with the support of the police, civilians, and journalists. Troops from Burkina Faso are also expected to participate in the exercise. This was disclosed in Accra by a spokesman for the Armed Forces Public Relations Directorate.

He said the exercise would assess the operational capacity of the Armed Forces in the event of a dissident invasion of the country. The spokesman said the exercise is also aimed at making the people aware of the possibility of such an invasion and its probable effects on the stability of the country. He said many people regard as a myth reports of dissident preparations to destabilize the revolution and explained that this exercise would help the public to understand that there is the possibility of such an event at any time.

It will be recalled that in 1983, a similar joint exercise, "Bold Union," was conducted by both Ghanaian and Burkinabe troops which started from the northern part of Ghana and ended in Po in Burkina Faso.

Daily on Need To Implement ECOWAS Protocols

AB130949 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 13 Mar 85

[From the press review]

[Text] The *PEOPLE'S DAILY GRAPHIC* comments on the call by the ECOWAS secretariat on member states whose nationals are victims of protocol agreements to take the initiative and inform the secretariat for the necessary ratification to be made.

It points out that much of the undercover dealings, which have characterized the movements of persons and goods throughout the subregion, is the result of the nonadherance to the protocol agreements which have been enshrined in the treaty. But the paper says it is reasonable that if the countries of the subregion should benefit from each other in trade, technological transfer, exportation of manpower, and other developmental activities, then it would be more than appropriate to implement fully the protocol agreements.

However, it feels that the secretariat should go further than just sitting tight hoping that such complaints will be forthcoming. The *GRAPHIC*, therefore, suggests that the secretariat should introduced a scheme which will make it possible for it to actually monitor how the member states of the organization are implementing the protocol agreements as regards the movement of persons and goods in the subregion.

GUINEA-BISSAU

Government Orders 2-Day Mourning for Chernenko

EA130048 Dakar PANA in French 1440 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Summary] Bissau, 12 Mar (ANG/PANA) — The Government of Guinea-Bissau has decreed 2 days of national mourning throughout the country following the death of the Soviet leader Konstantin Chernenko. A communique released by the Council of Ministers, which met in Bissau on Monday, paid homage to the Soviet head of state for his efforts at reinforcing the friendly and cooperative relations that exist between the Soviet and Guinean peoples.

IVORY COAST

President Sends Condolence Message to Gorbachev

AB130945 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 0745 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Condolence message from President Felix Houphouet-Boigny to Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU, following the death of Konstantin Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU and chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, sent on 12 March]

[Text] I have learned with great emotion of the death of Mr Konstantin Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU and chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, which occurred on Sunday, 10 March. On this painful occasion, I address, in the name of the Ivorian Government and people and in my own name, my heartfelt condolences to the government, the CPSU, and the Soviet people, as well as my deep sympathy to Mrs Chernenko and the family of the illustrious departed. Highest regards.

Signed, Felix Houphouet-Boigny

LIBERIA

Suspect Charged in November Plot To Kill Doe

AB091110 Paris AFP in English 1103 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Text] Monrovia, March 9 (AFP) — One of two people — A U.S. citizen and a Liberian — who allegedly planned to assassinate President Samuel Doe and overthrow his government here last November has been indicted and charged with "mercenarism", the state news agency LINA said here.

Former U.S. Marine William Woodhouse was formally served a writ of arrest yesterday at a local hospital where is still being treated for wounds received in a shootout in suburban Monrovia with government troops last November. No date has been set for his trial, the agency said.

Court authorities here said the Liberian suspect, Elmer Glee Johnson, who reportedly hired Mr Woodhouse to overthrow the government, would be indicted, charged and tried separately at a later date. "Mercenarism" here is a first-degree felony which carries a maximum 10-year prison term.

Last November, the government announced that it had foiled a plot to "destabilize the Liberian Government by killing Mr Doe, other officials and innocent citizens" in an attempt to establish a different form of government in this West African state. The plot was to have been carried out by "terrorists from abroad," the government statement said.

Later in December, the two suspected terrorists said on state radio and television that they had come from the United States to effect a "bloodless coup" because they were not convinced about the sincerity of the military government's plans to return this West African state to civilian rule next January.

MALI

Traore Sends Condolence Message on Death of Chernenko

AB121520 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Condolence message from President Moussa Traore to CPSU Central Committee following death of Konstantin Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Commitee and chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, sent on 11 March]

[Text] It is with deep regret that the people of Mali, their party, the Democratic Union of the Malian People, their government, and myself have learned of the sad news of the death of Comrade Konstantin Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet. All the Malian people have felt this unfortunate and cruel loss and greet the memory of the great deceased — an illustrious statesman who throughout his life did all he could for the establishment of a true socialist society in the USSR and for the triumph of the ideals of peace, justice, and freedom in the world. To the people of the Soviet Union, the CPSU, and the families of the great deceased, we express our sincere condolences. Best wishes.

Signed, General Moussa Traore

President Traore Speaks at Luncheon for Bush

AB112230 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Speech by President Moussa Traore while exchanging toasts with visiting U.S. Vice President George Bush in the gardens of the Amitie Hotel in Bamako on 9 March 1985 — recorded]

[Excerpts] Your visit testifies to the sympathy, friendship, and solidarity of the people and the Government of the United States for the people of Mali. It is taking place at a time when our people face great challenges imposed by a long and severe drought that is without precedence. The drought of 1984 has been the most severe in 50 years. Unexpected and preceded by two extremely dry years, it has definitely affected our country's climate and our sources of water, which were already meager. In fact, we have been suffering from a water shortage for more than 15 years. During this period, the annual average rainfall has fallen between 20 and 30 percent. Since then, our rainfall zones have retreated from between 80 to 100 km further south. In the Niger delta, Mopti now has the climate Timbuctu used to have, which was hard on people and livestock. Koutiala now has the climate that Mopti used to have.

The effects of such an evolution leave no breathing space for the government. Apart from our efforts at development, we will be forced to withstand further crisis situations in 1985. We must plan well to supply the people with foodstuffs, essential drugs,

and other elementary needs. We need to give human beings and the animals enough water to survive. We have to stop the migration of people in order to enable villages to produce some of their own food.

In Mali, we feel that harmonious development can only be achieved through the effective mobilization of all the people. And this mobilization for increased productivity has been an effort that our party, the Democratic Union of the Malian People, has been making daily. In fact, the fundamental option of our party is to encourage rural development. This means arousing the awareness of our rural peoples and providing them with the appropriate socioeconomic framework to enable them to take, in time, the necessary initiatives to contribute to the country's food strategy and to the immense effort in the fight against desert encroachment.

Last month, I was forced to visit most of the regions in the country and was convinced that the willingness expressed by the people to work hard and the awarness aroused in them by the disastrous drought are the decisive weapons of our battle. These weapons give hope and create the necessary conditions for our future victory over nature. The party and the government are aware of the creative potentials of our people and are proud of the importance of mobilization for national solidarity.

We can count on all the nation's social classes for the economic recovery of the country. It is in this way and within the framework of restructuring the food market and in pursuit of the current economic recovery program that state and jointly-run bodies as well as private individuals and organizations are harmoniously participating in the country's development program. In this reform program, we merely went back to the habits of our people. In fact, Malians, molded by a harsh natural environment, have taken recourse in their flare for audacious enterprises. In this regard, they have allowed leeway for individualism. As a land of hospitality, culture, and exchange, Mali owes its renowned balance to this freedom, which is dear to its children.

Mr Vice President, there are, therefore, common traits — I will even say a common heritage — between the American and Malian peoples: The care to safeguard man's freedom of initiative, a profound attachment to the fatherland, and a willing disposition when there is the need to make a humanitarian gesture. [applause]

Mr Vice President, the Malian people greatly appreciate your government's assistance efforts, the competence of the Agency for International Development, the devotion and the human qualities of numerous Americans from several institutions who are helping us in our daily efforts toward development. We are honored that your concern to be always close to the reality is known in our country on the eve of the historic Geneva conference. We have spent precious hours together, which were devoted to looking for the most efficient ways to help the people. This serves as a souvenir for me, and I nearly forgot to emphasize to the people here that you and Mrs Bush have something in common: your faith and your devotion to the well-being of the most needy.

I am sure that not only the charm of your visit, but, more than that, the humanitarian aspect of your gesture as well as your understanding that the drought is a calamity to be fought with strong medicine will live for a long time in the memories of all Malians. I will also seize this opportunity to express, on behalf of Malians, my gratitude to all friendly countries, the various institutions, and the international community for the assistance efforts they are making for us.

The Malian people are working hard in order to meet the current economic challenges. These efforts are aimed at harmonizing a long-term and stable development with the present struggle for survival imposed by the drought.

Mr Vice President, I know that the American people are open to dialogue and consultations among peoples. I would therefore like to say something about peace and justice, two concerns written in golden letters in the annals of our foreign policy. The concern for peace and justice is the basis of the peaceful and fraternal relations with our neighbors. At a time when the number of trouble spots are increasing in the world, the use of dialogue among peoples is more than ever necessary. Your people can and must play a great role in this field. The tradition and history of the United States are full of this willingness to struggle for freedom and independence. You already have to your credit laudable efforts made in favor of the oppressed peoples of our planet. We in Mali think that you can give more help to the peoples of southern Africa and the Middle East so that one day, the rights accorded them by the international community through the UN Charter will be implemented.

I would like to assure you with the same frankness that characterizes the relations existing between our two countries of the complete readiness of the people and Government of Mali to support your efforts toward peace and justice, because we are convinced of their necessity for development. I would also like to confirm to you our profound attachment to the strengthening of economic, cultural, and social cooperation between our two countries.

As a great world power, the United States is also a repository of (?simple) and useful experience, a school of economic efficiency, and a country whose people have always maintained a vibrant curiosity. These qualities have won the sympathy of Malians and have given birth to the deep desire of our people to get to know you better. Your visit to Mali has led to the establishment of a fruitful dialogue between our governments and to the intensification of our sincere and lasting cooperation with mutual respect for partners. It is a memorable date in the history of 25 years of sustained relations between the United States and Mali.

In view of this, I wish President Ronald Reagan, Mrs Bush, yourself, Mr Vice President, your delegation, and the American people long life.

NIGERIA

Lagos on Criticism of Commonwealth Practices

AB121625 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Viewpoint]

[Text] The Commonwealth Day has been observed this year by debates by citizens of some member states as to the continued relevance of the organization. In Nigeria, for instance, there has been a school of thought which wants the country to review its membership of the Commonwealth because of what it regarded as unobtainable benefits from the association. The government, however, has said that Nigeria has no intention of quitting the organization.

Criticism against the Commowealth organization center on its apparent indifference to the plight of its members, particularly in the economic field. Not much is heard of or seen of the activities of the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation, which is the main agency through which members are supposed to exchange and share resources. In fact, the attitudes of certain developed members of the Commonwealth to their bilateral relations with developing ones has tended to testify to the criticisms against the organization.

For example, last year Nigeria ought to have rescheduled repayment of her debts to Britain, but the request was turned down by the British Export Credit Guarantee Department, which is a government agency. If the true spirit of cooperation, which underlies the founding of the Commonwealth, was still the guiding principle of all the actions of member states, Britain, which is generally regarded as the mother of the Commonwealth, should not have treated Nigeria the way she did last year. This, however, underscores the fact that if the Commonwealth is to continue as previously conceived, it has to adopt practical measures to make it more relevant against the background of present day realities.

Another sad development in the Commonwealth of Nations is the practice by some of the developed member states to impose discriminatory and prohibitive courses for students from the poorer member states. This was the main issue discussed by the education ministers of the Commonwealth at the meeting last year in Frankfurt. The ministers called for a review of the discriminatory practice, but so far there has been no positive response from Britain and other countries charging such prohibitive fees. This is perhaps why Nigeria's minister of education, in a broadcast marking this year's Commonwealth year, renewed the call for a review of the practice in the interest of the Commonwealth as a group.

On the whole, the concept of the Commonwealth as an organization of cooperating nations remains very attractive, but in order to make the body more responsive and therefore relevant, no effort should be spared to remove the current practices by some of the members which may have the effect of pulling member states apart rather than together, as programmed by the founding fathers.

TOGO

Eyadema Sends Condolence Message to USSR

AB121600 Lome Domestic Service in French 1230 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Condolence message from President Gnassingbe Eyadema to Vasiliy Kuznetsov, first deputy chairman of the Presidium of USSR Supreme Soviet, following death of Konstantin Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU and chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, sent on 11 March]

[Text] Mr Deputy Chairman, it was with great dismay that all the Togolese people learned of the sudden death of Mr Konstantin Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU and chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, on 10 March 1985. Chairman Konstantin Chernenko was among the statesmen who — with rare courage and intelligence — marked our time by their effort in favor of peace and a relaxation of tension. In fact, during the few months he assumed the crushing responsibilities of power as chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, he demonstrated the interest and importance which the Soviet Union attaches to world peace and the cessation of the frantic arms race.

In the name of the Togolese people, their vanguard party — the Rally of the Togolese People [RPT] — and my government, and in my own name, allow me to pay a deserved tribute to the memory of the illustrious departed and to express my heartfelt condolences and sincere sympathy to the Soviet people and government and the bereaved family.

I reiterate to you my deep sympathy on the occasion of this great affliction and beseech you to accept, Mr Deputy Chairman, my highest regards.

Signed, General Gnassingbe Eyadema, founding Chairman of RPT and President of the Republic

ANGOLA

Dos Santos Sends Condolence Message to USSR

MB121532 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Condolence message from Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola, to the CPSU Central Committee on the death of Konstantin Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU and chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet — date not given]

[Text] On behalf of the Angolan people, the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee, the Government of the People's Republic of Angola, and myself, I convey our deep-felt condolences to the Soviet people, the CPSU Central Committee, and the USSR Supreme Soviet, on the passing away of Comrade Konstantin Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU and chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Soviet Supreme.

Comrade Konstantin Chernenko dedicated a major portion of his life to the struggle for the well-being and happiness of his people, and he tirelessly worked toward the consolidation of the foundations of the socialist society erected in the USSR, thanks to the wisdom and the consistent manner with which he implemented the universal principles of Marxism-Leninism.

With his passing away, the Soviet people have lost an eminent leader who defended peace, social progress, and understanding among nations. His dedication and understanding of the problems of the oppressed and exploited peoples' struggle for liberation and independence contributed toward a strengthening of anti-imperialist and anti-colonialist actions being carried out in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

In this moment of bereavement, the Angolan people and the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee join in the grief of the Soviet people and the members of their communist party, and reaffirm our friendship and solidarity with them.

Please convey our condolences to the bereaved family.

My highest and fraternal respects.

[Signed] Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola

Departs for Funeral

MB121955 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola, left for Moscow this evening, where he will attend the funeral tomorrow of Konstantin Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU and chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, who died as a result of a serious illness.

President Jose Eduardo dos Santos is accompanied by Comrade Pascoal Luvualu, member of the MPLA-Labor Party Political Bureau, and Comrade Afonso van Dunem "Mbinda," the minister of external relations and secretary of the Central Committee for external relations.

Armed Forces Kill 32 UNITA 'Lackeys'

MB130750 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] Another 32 lackeys of the UNITA puppet gang were immediately killed during clashes that took place between 23 February and 2 March in 6 Angolan provinces. During the operations, the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola freed 63 Angolans whom the puppets were keeping in their claws and captured 6 counterrevolutionaires and a large quantity of war equipment. The operations were carried out in Huambo, Bie, Benguela, Cuanza Sul, Lunda Sul, and Bengo Provinces.

Meanwhile, resident of the Quilombo Quia-Puto commune in Golungo Alto municipality very strongly condemned the criminal actions of the UNITA puppets. Waving posters and placards portraying the murderous wrath of the puppets, the municipality's residents condemned the murderous actions perpetrated by the puppets in Calomboloca and Botomona and blamed these acts on imperialism which through South Africa is financing, training, arming, and supplying ammunition to the counterrevolutionary gangs.

Prisoners of UNITA Meet With Press in Jamba

MB130839 (Clandestine) KUP in Portuguese to Central and Southern Africa 0600 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] Free Land of Angola, 13 Mar (KUP) — Foreign guest workers from Kafunfu were overjoyed at receiving information about their families. The Kafunfu guest workers, who include Americans, Britons, and Filipinos, had a meeting with the international press at Jamba yesterday during which they referred to the conditions of their march, expressed their views on the war in Angola, and spoke about their plans for the future.

When a member of the press informed them about their relatives who are currently in South Africa, they could not contain their great joy. Many guest workers thought during the journey that they could never make it to Jamba, as it was very hard to travel by foot for hundreds of kilometers.

A Capuchin priest from Uige, specifically Sanza Pombo, who decided to remain in the free land of Angola, was also presented to the international press.

The press conference ended in a very friendly atmosphere.

BOTSWANA

Masire Condolences to USSR; Mourning Declared

MB121350 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 1110 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] The president, Dr Quett Masire, said the late Soviet president Mr Konstantin Chernenko's contributions to the Soviet Union, world peace, and to all in the world who valued the spirit of human dignity and freedom will remain an inspiration to all mankind. In his message of condolences to the people of the Soviet Union, Dr Masire says as you embark on the task before you, bereft of Mr Chernenko's wise council and indomitable spirit, be assured of the sympathy and goodwill of the government and the people of Botswana on this unhappy occasion. Dr Masire conveyed sincere sympathies, particularly to the bereaved family of the late Soviet president.

Meanwhile, the office of the president has declared tomorrow a national day of mourning to mark the death of Mr Chernenko. All flags will fly at half-mast.

Chiepe To Attend Funeral

MB121822 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 1610 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] The minister of external affairs, Dr Gaositwe Chiepe, who is currently in Geneva, will fly to Moscow tonight to represent Botswana at the funeral of the late president, Konstantin Chernenko tomorrow. President Chernenko died on Sunday.

New Zealand's Prime Minister To Visit 9-11 Apr

MB121654 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 1110 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] New Zealand's prime minister, David Lange, is expected to visit Botswana from 9 to 11 April. A spokesman of the Department of External Affairs said Mr Lange will hold talks with the president, Dr Quett Masire, and other senior government officials. While in Botswana, the New Zealand prime minister will have firsthand information on the situation in southern Africa and will also be shown places of interest in the country.

Mr Lange became New Zealand's prime minister in July 1984, after his Labor Party defeated the National Party of Mr Robert Muldoon in that country's general elections.

MALAWI

Banda Discusses Budget at Parliamentary Session

MB121910 Blantyre Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] His excellency the life president ngwazi, Dr Kamuzu Banda, said today that the economic recovery which began in the United States and spread to Europe has now reached Malawi and, as a result, this year's budget will be a normal one. Speaking when he opened the budget meeting of parliament in Zomba, the life president explained that, unlike last year, the budget this year will be normal — neither austere nor lavish. He said last year's budget was an austerity one because of the worldwide recession which had affected Malawi. He explained that just as it took time for the recession to affect Malawi, it also took time for the recovery, which began in the United States, to reach Malawi. The life president said because the recovery had reached Malawi, there is a modicum of prosperity.

His excellency also pointed out that the government in Malawi believes in free enterprise, but during the recession import restrictions had to be imposed. He emphasized that the foundation of free enterprise is the freedom to import and export goods to and from the outside world. The life president said now that there was a measure of prosperity, these restrictions are being removed and, unlike shops in many countries in Africa, shops in Malawi are well stocked with goods and there are imported goods for the industrial sector as well.

The ngwazi also reminded the house that Malawi's economy was based on agriculture. He said, in terms of agriculture, last year was the best in many years. His excellency also said the decrease in agricultural production has not been restricted to one area, but has been spread to all parts of the country. The life president said, as he saw for himself during the recent crop inspections tour, people have learned and are interested in agriculture. He said from what he saw there is no question of (?starvation) in the country and in addition to having enough food, the people are (?likely) to have surplus crops to sell for cash.

The ngwazi said, however, that while there is no doubt about the food situation, sales of cash crops depend on their demand in overseas markets. He expressed the hope that there would be demand for these crops, so that the wealth of this country continues to grow.

Speaking later, after being entertained to traditional dancers at State House, his excellency the life president reiterated that to him the parliamentary budget session is a second leg to the primary budget, which is the actual crop situation in the fields. The life president explained that this is so because all the money in this country comes from the soil, and without crops from the soil there would be no money in this country. At this point, his excellency said although not much can be known about this year's budget until the minister of finance delivers his budget statement to parliament, from what he saw during his recent crop inspection tour, which is the primary budget, there will be a surplus this year and not a deficit.

The life president also said that (?yes), he had been very happy during his tour because even in those districts where the people knew nothing about agriculture there were beautiful crops everywhere, including maize, which was not previously grown in some districts until he urged the people there to do so.

MOZAMBIQUE

Condolences, Day of Mourning for Chernenko

Machel Condolence Message

MB121512 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1110 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Condolence message from Samora Machel, chairman of the Frelimo Party and president of the People's Republic of Mozambique, on the death of Konstantin Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU and chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, sent on 12 March]

[Text] It is with deep grief and consternation that, on behalf of the Central Committee of the Frelimo Party and the Standing Commission of the People's Assembly, the Council of Ministers of the Ministers of the People's Republic of Mozambique, and all the Mozambican people, I offer to the Central Committee of the CPSU and the Soviet people and government the most heartfelt condolences on the death of Comrade Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

Born in a peasant family, Comrade Konstantin Chernenko has distinguished himself since his early days in the ranks of the Komsomol [All-Union Leninist Communist Youth League], and was part of the generation which matured and was forged during the struggle for the defense and consolidation of the ideals and gains of the October Revolution, which created the first socialist state. During the great difficulties which were faced during the years of consolidation of the first soviet, Comrade Konstantin Chernenko demonstrated in the Komsomol the qualities of a patriot, militant, and leader, which enabled him to join the party as secretary of a local organization and later to be chosen to chair a department of the Communist Party in Moldavia. As a result of his distinguished militancy and his dedication to the ideals of the October Revolution, he subsequently assumed the leadership of a department of the Central Committee of the CPSU.

The Hero of Socialist Labor of the Soviet Union award with which he was distinguished is evidence of the recognition he received from the CPSU and the Soviet state for his lofty accomplishments and his great contribution to the cause of the people and proletariat. For wholly dedicating himself to the ideals of the party and the building of advanced socialism in the Soviet Union, reflecting the prestige and the trust that he earned as an unwavering militant, Comrade Konstantin Chernenko was elected general secretary of the CPSU in February 1984. While he was in charge of the destinies of the CPSU and Soviet Government and people, Comrade Konstantin Chernenko made a relevant contribution to the establishment of a serious and constructive platform for the issues of peace and disarmament.

As an unconditional friend of peace- and social progress-loving peoples and countries, Comrade Konstantin Chernenko was able to earn the esteem and respect of peoples of all progressive mankind, who will everlastingly remember a leader who was an untiring fighter for the cause of peace, progress, and socialism.

At this difficult hour we pay our most heartfelt tribute to the figure of the late Comrade Konstantin Chernenko, and reaffirm our profound conviction that our two parties, peoples, and states will be able to honor this memory by deepening and even further promoting the traditional ties of friendship and solidarity existing between us.

We send the most heartfelt sympathy to the grieved family on my own behalf, the Frelimo Party, the Mozambican state, and all our people.

The struggle continues.

[Signed] Samora Moises Machel, Field Marshal of the Republic, Chairman of the Frelimo Party, President of the People's Republic of Mozambique

Maputo, 12 March 1985.

Leaders Sign Condolence Book

MB121845 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] At the Soviet Embassy in Maputo this afternoon, the Frelimo Party Central Committee, the Standing Commission of the People's Assembly, and the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Mozambique paid, on behalf of all the Mozambican people, their most heartfelt homage to Konstantin Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, who died in Moscow on Sunday. The ceremony was attended by senior Frelimo Party and Mozambique Government officials led by Joaquim Chissano, member of the Political Bureau and the Standing Commission of the People's Assembly and minister of foreign affairs. Yuriy Sepelev, ambassador of the USSR to Mozambique, attended the ceremony. Writing in the book of condolences, the Mozambican authorities stressed that Konstantin Chernenko was an untiring fighter for the cause of peace, progress, and socialism.

A large number of officials and diplomats accredited to Maputo called at the Soviet Embassy during the course of the day to present condolences to the Soviet nation and people.

Day of Mourning Declared

MB121536 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1110 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Communique on the funeral of Konstantin Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, issued by the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Frelimo Party and the Standing Commission of the People's Assembly in Maputo on 12 March]

[Text] The funeral of Comrade Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of USSR, will be held tomorrow. As an exemplary militant for the ideas of progress and socialism and a dedicated combatant for the cause of international peace and disarmament, Comrade Konstantin Chernenko was a revolutionary leader who was held in great esteem by the Soviet people and all of progressive mankind.

The militants of the Frelimo Party deeply feel the loss of this great leader and dedicated friend, and share the grief and mourning of the CPSU militants and the Soviet people.

The Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Frelimo Party and the Standing Commission of the People's Assembly, expressing the sentiment of the entire Mozambican nation, have decided that tomorrow, 13 March 1985, will be observed as a day of national mourning during which the flag of the Frelimo Party and the national flag will fly at half mast, with the suspension of recreational activities throughout the country.

The struggle continues.

Maputo, 12 March 1985.

Machel Departs for Funeral

MB121826 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] President Samora Machel left for Moscow late this morning to attend the funeral ceremonies for Soviet leader Konstantin Chernenko. The Mozambican leader is accompanied on this trip by Armando Guebuza, member of the Frelimo Party Political Bureau and minister in the presidency; Carlos Lobo, deputy minister of foreign affairs; Abdul Magid Osman, minister of mineral resources; and Tomas Salomao, secretary of state for defense.

Zimbabwean President Canaan Banana is traveling abroard the same airplane as the Mozambican presidential delegation. He is traveling to Moscow to attend the funeral ceremonies of Konstatin Chernenko, the late president of the USSR.

RAND DAILY MAIL: Security Situation Deteriorating

MB121023 Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 12 Mar 85 p 6

[First of three-part article by Benjamin Pogrund after a visit to Maputo: "Mozambique Gripped by MNR Vice of Terror"]

[Text] Only the brave or the foolish now drive outside Mozambique's cities without armed escort. The danger of ambush and death at the hands of the Mozambique National Resistance Movement — the MNR — has become too great.

It's a gloomy commentary on the Nkomati Accord — the first birthday of its signing is this coming Saturday — that the security situation appears to have deteriorated sharply since December, when an upsurge in MNR activity began.

Getting an exact assessment of what is happening is, in its nature, difficult: the ultimate test would be to drive out of Maputo and see how far you get before hitting a landmine or being shot at by the "bandits", as the government describes them.

A formal request to the Mozambique Government for an official overview of the security situation meets with no success.

But this is the picture pieced together from a range of sources in Maputo and Johannesburg...

Maputo is in a state of effective siege as far as its residents are concerned. They can travel without fear to the "green belt" which surrounds the city, but not beyond it.

Even to drive half an hour out of Maputo to once-popular beaches up the coast means risking your life.

So people don't do it.

The same with the drives to the border — whether the 90 km to Komatipoort or the shorter 45-minute run to Swaziland.

During January, the Maputo government reports that at least 35 people died in attacks on civilian vehicles.

One side effect of the terror is seen in the changed lifestyle of diplomats and expatriate workers who previously drove to Nelspruit or Mbabane once a week to do their shopping for the many items not available in Maputo.

"I could drive to Nelspruit and get back in one day," says a diplomat. "Then during last year it became dangerous to drive at certain times of the day. So I would drive to Nelspruit, stay over for the night and return the next day.

"Now I dare not drive there at all. Instead I send a telex saying what I want and the goods are flown here."

Attending to such requests is an enterprising Nelspruit pilot. Last year he began flying into Maputo about once a week. Now on some days he might do several flights, carrying anything from groceries and fresh meat to electric generators.

Other towns in Mozambique are equally cut off except by air or sea.

Foreign workers are a prime target for the MNR — if they can be forced out it would be a major blow against the government. But Mozambique's overseas helpers are standing firm, even while taking precautionary action.

Thus an official in the aid section of the Swedish Embassy explains that the Nordic countries have withdrawn their workers from the outlying rural areas and are keeping them in the towns. They did this after a Swedish aid worker was murdered near the Swaziland border in December.

But there is no question of aid being withdrawn, he says. If necessary, projects are simply being switched to safer areas.

However grave the security situation, it does not mean that the MNR is in control.

Far from it.

What the MNR has succeeded in doing is creating fear in many parts of the country so that no one can be sure where next it might strike.

In other words, it could be perfectly safe to drive out of Maputo or Beira today but taking the same road tomorrow could take you into an ambush.

Frelimo's army has succeeded in chasing the MNR out of some areas. But it is like trying to pick up mercury: it breaks up and slides off into another area.

A particular problem is the quality of the army. Parts of its are said to be very good. But it's a conscript army and the men are often poorly motivated and unwilling to fight.

More, the government cannot always get sufficient food to units in outlying areas and this has a devastating effect on morale and fighting ability.

It can also turn government soldiers into brigands preying on local people for food.

The issue of the army's capability was aired by President Samora Machel last year when he noted that Frelimo had forgotten the lesson of its own fight for independence against the Portuguese Army.

It won through guerrilla tactics but was not coping with the same sort of strategies being used against it.

Despite President Machel's reminder of recent history, the army has not thus far been able to adjust its tactics to cope with the MNR.

It seems that a state of stalemate has been reached: Frelimo is not strong enough to destroy the MNR: the MNR is not strong enough to bring down the government. But there is no sign in government circles of panic or anxiety.

A vital point is that is does not seem that the MNR is in a position to create an alternative government in the rural areas in which it operates.

Nor is it entirely clear whether the MNR is a single cohesive group or rather made up of one or two major groups in different parts of the country with smaller numbers engaged in straightforward criminal plundering with no political pretensions whatsoever.

Certainly some statements issued by the MNR in Lisbon are wildly exaggerated — such as its claims about shelling Maputo. It has done nothing of the sort.

Indeed the city is calm and there is no discernible evidence of any growth in tension since a last visit in mid-year. There are as few soldiers as ever patrolling the streets, although at night civil defence units are on duty.

SOUTH AFRICA

R.F. Botha Speaks in Parliament on Disinvestment

MB130900 Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 13 Mar 85 p 1

[By Chris Freimond, political correspondent, Parliament]

[Excerpt] South Africans should accept that the disinvestment campaign in the United States could lead to "significant economic damage" — including loss of jobs — the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, warned yesterday.

Speaking in the House of Delegates in a debate on a private member's motion on disinvestment, Mr Botha said the government viewed the threats seriously and would do all it could to contain and defeat them.

"We have faced sanctions before. We have faced this threat for more than two decades. We beat the arms embargo. We beat the oil embargo. With the country's help we will once again beat this threat," he said.

In spite of opposition to sanctions by the U.S. Administration and by the governments of South Africa's other major economic partners, the threat was considerable.

The U.S. legislative process, combined with the "anti-South African" majorities in the House of Representatives, the majority of states, and in most major cities, made a variety of "hostile" actions possible.

But the "boycotters" could not succeed.

"Indeed, we can and will not allow it. We must, nevertheless, be forewarned of and prepared for the dangers," Mr Botha said.

The threat would be defeated because most South Africans strongly resisted disinvestment — including some black leaders who represented consistently anti-government viewpoints.

The "misplaced and perverse" sense of justice and humanity being displayed by the "wealthy men and women" in the U.S. who advocated disinvestment would lead to famine and degradation for millions of blacks.

"We Africans face a harsh reality which is too little understood in the U.S. This is the reality of the first of all human freedoms, perhaps the most fundamental of them all: freedom from want and famine. Destroy a job and you take away a family's food," he said.

Mr Botha reaffirmed the government's determination to allow South Africans to determine their own future.

"We welcome the constructive help and advice of our friends, but we reject demands and prescriptions," he said.

He called on all South African to speak and act together, promptly, systematically and in co-ordination to counter disinvestment campaigns.

"Most Americans and Europeans are men and women of sound judgment and goodwill. Too many are misled because they do not hear what South Africa's people really want. We can and must reach them," Mr Botha said.

Other Speakers Comment

MB121857 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Excerpts] The member for eastern Transvaal in the House of Delegates, Mr Ahmed Arbee, says any punitive action against South Africa such as disinvestment could have disastrous consequences for neighboring countries which have economic ties with the Republic and rely on it to provide jobs for their citizens. Proposing a motion urging the Department of Foreign Affairs to take measures to counter the disinvestment campaign, he said that his party, Solidarity, was committed to restructuring of South African society through orderly change. However, it dissociated itself from extraparliamentary action that would result in violence and racial strife.

The leader of the opposition Solidarity Party in the House of Delegates, Dr J.N. Reddy, says Indian South Africans are implacably opposed to the withdrawal of foreign interests from the country. This attitude, he said, had been confirmed in the run-up to last year's elections, and he urged those advocating severance of ties with South Africa to work instead towards economic partnership with the country. One factor which had contributed more than any other to national reform had been the steady economic growth of the past 20 years.

Johannesburg Notes U.S. Vote Against RSA in UN

MB130550 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] The entire Security Council of the United Nations, including the United States and Britain, has condemned South Africa for the handling of the Crossroads squatter camp question and for the arbitrary arrests of people opposed to the government's apartheid policy.

The Security Council has also demanded the release of all held in South Africa in terms of security legislation.

ASSOCIATED PRESS reports that it was the first time during the administration of President Reagan that the United States had voted in favor of a resolution in the council condemning South Africa for its domestic policies. Previously, the United States had abstained from voting on resolutions and has even vetoed resolutions supporting economic sanctions against South Africa.

The American representative in the council, Mr Warren Clark, said that the United States supported the resolution in spite of its improper language.

SWAZILAND

Government Cannot Control Mozambique Refugees

MB130915 Mbabane Television Service in English 1630 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Excerpt] The minister of interior and immigration, Mr Mtetwa, told parliament this afternoon that he intends to investigate allegations that some foreign businessmen are granted business licenses before they acquired temporary residence permits. Answering questions put to him in the House of Assembly last week during a debate on funds allocated to his ministry, Mr Mtetwa pointed out that the immigration act does not permit foreigners to run businesses without having first acquired temporary residence permits. He disclosed that of the 1,589 applications for temporary residence permits submitted to his ministry last year, only 115 were turned down or cancelled.

In reply to a question on the influx of Mozambican refugees in the country, the minister said that the government did not have the means to control the number of such refugees coming into Swaziland because they entered the country illegally by sneaking under the fence that runs along the country's borders. Mr Mtetwa also told parliament that the government could be in no way prevent Mozambicans from mixing with Swazi nationals because to do so would be contrary to the Kingdom's nonracial policy.

A member of parliament had earlier expressed concern over the integration of Mozambican men with Swazi women with the result that they would dilute the Swazi nation, he said. The minister was, however, happy to tell the house that the distribution of sexes among the Mozambicans was even.

Throwing more light on the Mozambican refugee situation, Mr Mtetwa said that most of the Mozambican nationals who come into Swaziland illegally are told to leave the country, but, he said, instead they go into hiding, and some are later brought to his office by chiefs claiming that they were their subjects. This, he said, was a serious national problem.

Bhekimpi Sends Condolence Message to USSR
MB121705 Mbabane Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] The prime minister, Prince Bhekimpi, has on behalf of the queen regent, Ntombi, sent a message of condolence to the Soviet Government following the untimely demise of the Russian president, Konstantin Chernenko. The message, which was sent through the Russian Embassy in Mozambique, reads in part:

I have it in command of her majesty, the indlovukazi and queen regent, Ntombi, of the Kingdom of Swaziland, to express our deep condolences at the untimely demise of His Excellency President Konstantin Chernenko of the USSR.

The message continued: May the bereaved family and the people of the Soviet Union find comfort at this dark hour of sadness.

OAU Delegation Departs After Talks With Ministers
MB121920 Mbabane Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] The executive secretary of the OAU Liberation Committee, Brigadier Mbita, who led a 4-man OAU delegation for talks with the Swazi Government, left the country over the weekend after holding talks with five Swazi cabinet ministers, led by the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Mhambi Mnisi. The meeting was a follow-up to a previous meeting which Brig Mbita held with the Swazi Government authorities late last year to discuss problems and misunderstanding between Swaziland and the ANC.

During the meeting, the Swazi Government strongly expressed its concern that the ANC had issued statements condemning the Swazi Government without consulting the Swazi Government to verify the facts.

ZAMBIA

Kaunda Bans Strikes by 'Essential Workers'
MB122025 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 12 March 85

[Text] President Kaunda has banned employees of all financial institutions in Zambia from going on strike. The ban, contained in Statutory Instrument No 35 of 1985, issued last night in the special government gazette under the Preservation of the Public Security Act, orders all workers in all the financial institutions throughout Zambia to carry on their duties in accordance with the conditions of service.

The president said any person who, without lawful excuse, the proof of which lies on him, fails or neglects to comply with any order or direction, or prevents or obstructs or interferes with any other person in the performance of any such order or direction, shall be guilty of an offense under that regulation.

The presidential ban includes all essential workers, Zambia Electricity Supply Corporation, fire brigades, breweries, garbage disposal or sanitation service employees. Others are those in health, hospital, and ambulance services, as well as any service relating to the supply of water, production, supply, delivery, or distribution of food or fuel, and mining services.

(?Posts), communications, transport, and any service relating to repair and maintenance, or to the driving, loading, and unloading of vehicles (?for) use in transport service are also included. The rest of those under the ban are those working for roads, railways, bridges, ferries, pontoons, airfields, harbors, or dock (?services), as well as the teaching service of the government, and any other service of security, whether or not of a kind similar to the ones he has declared to be a neccesary service for the purpose of preserving public security.

In another move, the striking employees from financial institutions have been given until tomorrow to report for work or be sacked. According to a statement issued by the Bank of Zambia following a special meeting chaired by Central Bank Governor David Phiri, and attended by financial institutions's chief executives, any worker who will not report for work tomorrow at the appropriate time will be considered duly resigned from employment.

The employers have found the current walk-out by workers of financial institutions illegal and in breach of the individual worker's contract of service, because they have no dispute with the financial institutions. Employers have also resolved that all workers involved in the strike, which started yesterday, will not be paid for the day during which they withdrew their labor.

Workers are demanding the withdrawal of Statutory Instrument No 6 of 1985, which revokes the deduction of union subscriptions on behalf of any union whose members stage an illegal strike.

Meanwhile, the Zambia Congress of Trade Unions, ZCTU, has called on the strikers to go back to work immediately. ZCTU Chairman General Frederick Chiluba told a news conference in Lusaka today that his appeal followed numerous disturbing false reports reaching the authorities implicating the mother body in stoppage. He denied allegaitons that the strike had been organized by the ZCTU, and that it was aimed at paralyzing all business operations in the country.

Mr Chiluba attacked what he called deliberate attempts by the authorities to misunderstand and misinterpret the actions and decisions of the labor movement, even when such decisions were benevolent. He revealed that he had held a meeting with President Kaunda, who advised unions to evolve a new (?checkoff) system to get their dues from members in view of the government's decision to stop deduction of dues from members' salaries.

The ZCTU chief said the labor movement would go along with the president's suggestion, although he foresaw a number of (?weaknesses) in the new system because it lacked legal backing. His decision to accept the idea was to avoid playing into the hands of people who thought the ZCTU had ulterior motives in all its actions.

In Kabwe, at least 25 farmers from Mkushi, Serenje, and Kabwe Rural were today turned away without collecting wages for their farm workers on time, as the strike by members of the Zambian Union of Financial Institutions and Allied Workers entered its second day. The farmers also complained that they could not cash checks for fuel and spare parts. One farmer from Mkushi, Brighton Chimumba, said his workers would go without wages until banks resumed work.

The strike by financial institutions caught many people unawares, as those that had business to do at the banks were turned away by security guards, who informed customers that workers were on strike. Other organizations affected by the strike include Zambia Railways, farms, and business houses like Mwaiseni Stores, district councils, hotels, and milling companies, which deposit daily takings in the banks after sales.

Kaunda Condolences on Death of Chernenko

MB121345 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] His excellency the president, Dr Kaunda, has said the West should respond to the challenge left by the late Soviet president, Konstantin Chernenko, in averting dangers of a nuclear war. Speaking after signing a book of condolences at the Soviet Embassy in Lusaka this morning, Dr Kaunda said those fingers on world weapons had the responsibility to serve mankind, and said the late Mr Chernenko shouldered the responsibility well. The president of Zambia was mourning Chernenko because he stood for peace, adding that people who stood for peace had love for mankind, a quality which he said was rare. Soviet Ambassador to Zambia Vladimir Cherednik thanked Dr Kaunda, the party, and its government for the sympathies expressed on the death of Mr Chernenko. Dr Kaunda was accompanied by Prime Minister Nalumino Mundia, the secretary of the defense and security, Grey Zulu, and several members of the Central Committee, who also signed the book of condolences. Several members of the diplomatic corps also signed the book this morning.

ZIMBABWE

Mugabe Signs Condolences Book at Soviet Embassy

MB121840 Harare Domestic Service in English 1745 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] In Harare, the prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, signed the book of condolences opened at the Soviet Embassy this afternoon. The deputy prime minister, Comrade Simon Muzenda, and about 20 government ministers also signed the book.

President Departs for Funeral

MB121357 Harare Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] The president, Comrade Canaan Banana, left Harare for Moscow this morning to attend the funeral of the Soviet leader, Comrade Konstantin Chernenko, who died on Sunday after a long illness. Comrade Banana, who is accompanied by the minister of foreign affairs, Comrade Witness Mangwende, was seen off at the airport by the prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, and several government ministers.

The president and his delegation were expected to catch a connecting flight in Maputo, where they will join the Mozambican president, Comrade Samora Machel, on the flight to Moscow.

The body of President Chernenko is lying in state at the Hall of Columns, and the new Soviet leader, Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev, is preparing to meet foreign dignitaries travelling to the Soviet capital for the funeral.

HERALD on Double Standards of UK Media

MB121709 Harare THE HERALD in English 2 Mar 85 p 6

[Editorial: "Guerrillas or Bandits?"]

[Text] What is nauseating about the double standards practised in the news coverage by the British mass media is not so much the practice as the fact that they literally get away with murder.

Of course, since colonialism itself was an act of banditry, the mass media which were used for hiding from the public the true motives behind the acquisition of other people's lands through the use of force and guile could not help but degenerate into the tools of the powers that be.

The myth that the mass media in the West do not reflect in essence the establishment's thinking becomes unstuck when one looks at the slant of news in connection with internal problems such as Northern Ireland and the miners' strike.

Here both the television networks and the newspapers have descended like sledgehammer, reflecting conservative thinking upon Irish Republican Army [IRA] guerrillas and Arthur Scargill and his striking miners.

The IRA are referred to as terrorists and the miners as anarchists. Zimbabwe's armed political bandits, who are in reality nothing but terrorists, are never referred to as such in the British mass media.

For instance, when the pictures of schoolteachers in Masvingo — whose noses, lips and ears were gr esomely mutilated by dissidents — were made public here, not a single one of them was published in British papers.

On the contrary, one is given the impression that the dissidents could have a just cause. The reasons for this approach are that in most cases the British mass media are still employing divide-and-rule tactics where Zimbabwe and other progressive African countries are concerned.

What makes good copy is not the truth in Matabeleland, but the painting of a false picture, depicting a "Matabeleland besieged by Mugabe's Shona government," bent on "massacring the Ndebele".

In view of this, perhaps the best solution lies in adopting the attitude the Prime Minister prescribed when he said of the Press in Britain: "Those communities have made up their minds against us. Why should we continue to interest ourselves in their reports in their papers?"

The principal objective of their smear campaign, which resumed in earnest last Sunday on the Panorama programme in London as our first elections since independence approach, is to intimidate us from taking appropriate measures to deal with subversive elements. The attempt will not succeed.

Radio Truth: ZANU-PF Knew of Tourists' Graves

MB130834 (Clandestine) Radio Truth in English to Zimbabwe 0430 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Station commentary]

[Text] The long, long months of agonized waiting, of hope and despair, are at an end. For the parents, relatives, and friends of the six abducted tourists there is now the dreadful certainty that their loved ones were the victims of a vicious bloodthirsty massacre. We at Radio Truth extend our heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved and hope that time will heal the wounds and fill the aching void. We are so terribly sorry that such a tragic fate should have befallen these young people in the prime of their lives when their only wish was to explore the scenic splendor of our land. It is a stain on the good name of Zimbabwe that must be expunged in the fullness of time. It is our fervent wish that all of those responsible for this foul crime, whoever they may be, should pay the ultimate penalty. Such retribution will not bring back those precious lives that have been lost, but it may help to prevent another tragedy of similar dimension.

The discovery of the bodies has indeed taken an incredibly long time. There are many factors involved, but one disturbing rumor suggests that ZANU-PF have known the whereabouts of the graves for quite a time. They are alleged to have delayed the official discovery until an opportune moment for party political gain emerged. The exposure of ZANU-PF instigated atrocities on the BBC program Panorama required a counter to divert public attention at home and overseas. The sudden discovery of the remains of the six tourists provided an opportunity to focus attention once more on the activities of dissidents and ex-ZIPRA combatants.

If this is a true reflection of events, it represents a heartless and cruel manouver that can only blacken the name of ZANU-PF still further. The parents of the deceased have suffered enough in all conscience without their personal tragedy being turned into a party-political football. We hope there is a more humane explanation.